Utah Westerners Help Fund Monument

By Steve Gallenson
Utah Westerners

On April 22, 1866, during an era of conflict between Mormon settlers and members of the Ute Indian Nation, known as the Blackhawk War, over 30 noncombatant Paiute Nation men, women and children were bound and brutally massacred by local Mormons in the community of Circleville, Utah.

150 years later, on the anniversary of this atrocity, a monument was dedicated in Circleville, commemorating the massacre.

Utah Westerners, as a chapter and some members singly, donated to fund the monument and played important roles in bringing the monument to reality. Westerner Brad Westwood, director of the Division of Utah State History, spearheaded efforts to make the monument a reality and Westerner Richard Turley Jr., assistant director of the historical Department of the LDS church, was instrumental in getting a large donation from the LDS church.

Utah Sheriff Gallenson assisted in the fundraising efforts which resulted in the Utah unit, which donated $1,000, and various members contributing the largest portion of money needed for the monument. Members of the Paiute Nation designed the monument with words on it taken from oral history passed down by elders of the tribe.

The event was attended by over 100 people including several dozen members of the Paiute Nation, the mayor and town council of Circleville, officials from the Mormon church and several Utah Westerners.

Utah Westerners were well acknowledged for their contributions during the ceremony by the media and in a declaration by Gov. Gary Herbert of Utah.
To Our Membership:

The volunteer staff here at the Home Ranch Headquarters wants to bring our Westerners International members up to date on our situation regarding possible relocation of the main office. As you may know, we have been housed in the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City for the past 28 years, and it has been a great fit, benefiting both.

However, the time has come for us to consider a new location. The Museum has reached the point in its growth that it has used up all of the extra space that it has for its own administrative and technical staff, archive areas, and storage. They came to the Home Ranch and asked if it would be possible for us to move out of the Museum by year’s end or soon thereafter.

This letter is to advise our membership that we are searching for a new home and what we feel we need for a good fit. Please consider the possibility of moving the headquarters to your area and your posse or corral taking over the administrative duties of the volunteer-run office. If that sounds like too much for your group to do by itself, consider joining with one or two other nearby corrals or posses.

Obviously the two biggest hurdles to overcome are recruiting a volunteer staff to run the headquarters and locating, if possible, rent free space in a facility that has some connection to western history and is not a political entity, i.e. a place subject to the whims of local or national politics. In addition to our primary volunteers, we can call on members from three local corrals or posses.

The current Board of Directors of Westerners International realizes that it is going to be difficult to find a new location for the Home Ranch that will be anywhere near as ideal as the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. The new home needs to be a place that can develop a symbiotic relationship with the Westerners International to benefit both organizations. Such a relationship should make it easier for the new home location to offer rent-free space.

Ideally the new location should be a not-for-profit organization with some connection to western history, but that is not owned or operated by a government entity (such as a University, a state museum, or a museum in a Federal or State park). A museum operated by a private educational institution or funded through some industry might be a good place to start looking.

As much as we, the current Headquarters staff, do not want to see it leave the State of Oklahoma, we are more concerned that we find a new home that will allow Westerners International to continue to grow.

Please give this some extra thought and even if you feel that your corral or posse is not large enough to take on this major project, let us know what you think and give us the benefit of your creative thinking about this.

The Relocation Committee

wihomeranch@gmail.com 1-800-541-4650
By Judy Pearce

Janet Sands passed the antique Santa Barbara sheriff’s badge over to Susan Jensen in January. Susan and husband, Paul Singer, are accomplished equestrians. They also film nationally honored documentaries preserving western history, vaquero traditions, cattle ranching and cowboy culture.

Picking up the reins Judy scheduled Richard Waller and Otis Calef, president of the Santa Barbara Trails Council, to highlight their 1,200 mile horseback and mule ride on the Old Spanish Trails.

Two highly respected historians, Erin Graffy de Garcia and her brother Neal Graffy were featured speakers this spring in separate presentations. Erin informed our dinner gathering of 75 members about the Italian culture in Santa Barbara.

Neal gave an informative presentation about the history of water in Santa Barbara. We are experiencing the worst drought in 100 years and Neal took us through centuries of solving water needs. Sadly, Neal didn’t have any positive answers about our future.

Our last meeting for the season was in June. Sheriff Jensen had her friend Glen Holden, former ambassador to Jamaica, give a speech on the history of polo both worldwide and in Santa Barbara. We learned the game came to New York in 1876 and was introduced here in 1894 and was embraced with great enthusiasm.

Holden was an award winning player who is now retired at 85 and is the president of the Federation of International Polo.

The Santa Barbara club is one of the three oldest (1911) in the United States and the grounds and club house, with views of the ocean and mountains, were developed in 1923 by Max Fleishman known as The Yeast King.

During the 20s and 30s, a golden age for polo, many celebrity players from Hollywood rode here including Will Rogers, Walt Disney and Spencer Tracy. The military encouraged polo as training for the cavalry and George Patton was an excellent rider who joined matches on Fleishman Field. In 1963 the first U.S. Open played here and again in 1966.

In the 1970s Ambassador Holden devised a plan to save the polo grounds from financial disaster. In 2011 he attracted world-wide attention to Santa Barbara when he arranged for Prince William and his bride of two months, the Duchess of Cambridge, to come for a round-robin game to benefit the charitable foundation the Prince and his brother, Prince Harry, had recently established.

Spring Report of Santa Barbara Corral

L to R left photo, Paul Singer, Sheriff Susan Jensen, Gloria Holden and Ambassador Glen Holden at the Polo Grounds. Above, Richard Waller, Sheriff Jensen and Otis Calef. (Photos provided)

A Very Sad Goodbye

It is with great sadness we share the news that Richard H. “Dick” Dillon died July 7 at the age of 92 at his home in Mill Valley, CA. He was a member of the San Francisco Corral. We will miss his well-crafted book reviews which ran often in this publication. Also his personal notes, always sent on picture post cards he had collected over the years.

Born in Sausalito, CA, he was a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, where he received two Master’s degrees. He has published hundreds of books, articles and reviews over a 67-year career, 30 of those years as head librarian at the Sutro Library in San Francisco. He and his late wife Barbara had 3 sons, 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.
“Terminal Island, Lost Communities of Los Angeles Harbor” was the topic of the May meeting of the Huntington Westerners. Speaker was Geraldine Knatz. The talk was based on a book Knatz co-authored with Naomi Hirahara. It concerned the early history of the islands of San Pedro Bay, Deadman’s and Rattlesnake Islands which together became Terminal Island.

In June there was an illustrated lecture concerning author Jack London’s other career as an accomplished photographer. Presenter was Sara (Sue) Hodson.

There is sad news from the John G. Neihardt Corral, Columbia, Missouri. On May 19 the few remaining active members voted to disband the corral and go into “Dry Camp.” Funds in the treasury after paying any outstanding bills will be donated to the Boone County Historical Society.

Sometimes a corral will reactivate. We hope that might happen for this group.

A corral which has reactivated, though apparently they didn’t know they were in Dry Camp, is the Fort Worth Corral. Around the years 2007 or 8 the Home Ranch was told the group was disbanding but apparently not all the members were told of this! It seems a few hardy souls have been meeting all along.

They have now caught up on past dues, are out of Dry Camp status and are hoping to be able to grow their corral. It was once a lively and large group. If any of our readers have friends in the Fort Worth area that might be interested in joining be sure to let them know. Contact is Phillip Williams, Sec. Treas., PO Box 820651 North Richland Hills, TX 76182.

Member Bob Barr presented the program at the April meeting of the Fort Abraham Lincoln Corral, Bismarck-Mandan, ND. His topic was Fort Rice, established 1864 as the first military fort on the Missouri River built to guard northern plains transportation routes. After the fort was built the 1st U.S. Volunteer Infantry arrived to man the fort. Interestingly enough these “Volunteers” were Confederate prisoners of war who joined the Union Army to protect the western frontier “rather than wait to be paroled or exchanged for Yankee prisoners of war.”

Each year this corral, depending on available funds, donates to organizations/sites that preserve history. This past year the recipient was Camp Hancock Historic Site which only receives limited funding from North Dakota to maintain its history.

In June the Los Angeles Corral held its annual Fandango, this year a luau labeled Fandango—Mona Kai. Suggested dress for the event was Hawaiian/Grass Skirts/Paniolo attire.

The July meeting was a talk by members Mark and Linda Nelson on “The Wire that Won the West.” The Nelsons are among the world’s foremost experts on American barbed wire.

Having their own Fandango in early July was the San Dimas Corral. The event was held at the Hurst Ranch. Maybe they will send a picture of the festivities for the next bulletin.

The June meeting featured a program by W. David Goff about “The Gold Rush in the San Gabriel Mountains” which began in the 1840s.

One of our newer groups is the Northwest Montana Posse of Kalispell. They are producing a very informative, entertaining and pleasing-to-the-eye newsletter called Pony Tracks, Richard L. Hardesty, Editor and Printer’s Devil.

They have a Trivia Question in each month with this caution to hopeful winners: “Sorry, public recognition is your only prize, pardner.”

Members of the Chisholm Trail Corral held their annual Chuck Wagon Cookout in May. Invited to join them this year were members of the Indian Territory Posse, also of Oklahoma City.

As usual they were served a fine meal by members and chuck wagon cooks Trammel and Susan Rushing.

In Memoriam

The spring 2016 issue of the Los Angeles Corral publication, The Branding Iron, features a memorial tribute to Glen Dawson, the last of the founders of the corral, which is Number 4, organized in 1946. Dawson died March 22 in Pasadena at the age of 103.

The family business was Dawson’s Book Shop were he was first a partner with his father and later joined by a brother. It was more than just a shop as the Dawsons published over 300 titles and 500 catalogues.

Dawson was the 13th sheriff of the corral in 1959 and WI Living Legend No. 47 in 2003.

Born in 1912 in the Los Angeles area, he was graduated with a degree in history from UCLA in 1935 and served in WW II in the Tenth Mountain Division, known as Warriors on Skis, in the Italian Alps.
Wanted:
Pictures of Corral & Posse activities for Bulletin and on our web page. Best are 4x6 or 5x7 color photos.
Westerners International
1700 NE 63rd
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
wihomeranch@gmail.com

Include names of people and places and that of the photographer.

Corrals Should Share Ideas

As is suggested below, the Home Ranch is encouraging all our corrals and posses to share what they are doing.

If your group has an interesting program this gives other corrals in your area an idea of where they might find an interesting program or an idea of a way to get an interesting program together themselves.

If a group shares pictures and an article about an interesting historic site they visited it might get other more sedentary groups out of the meeting room to see some bit of history in person instead of on slides.

So we would like everyone to keep this in mind. Take a camera to meetings and outings. Try your hand at doing a story to go along with the pictures. It doesn’t have to be long and in fact doesn’t have to be sent in perfect order.

The important thing is to share what you know and do.

Burnis Argo, Editor

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The April issue of The Pacific Northwesterner, publication of the Spokane Corral features an article on Baxter General Hospital (City of Mercy) which was located in Spokane from 1942 to 1945, one of the many hospital facilities. Author is Aimee Flinn Nechanicky, a Navy Petty Officer First Class who is administrator at the historic Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute. Baxter at one time consisted of hundreds of buildings including a post office, movie house, recreational facilities and gas and fire stations. It also housed 100 foreign prisoners of war. The lengthy, but very interesting article includes several illustrations from her mother’s collection—she was a registered nurse at Baxter during World War II.

The Denver Westerners Roundup, January-February, also carries a military theme as “A Short History of Lowry Air Force Base. 1937-1944.” Author Jack Ballard, member of the Denver Posse, served as a Lt. Colonel at the base from 1947-1980. At one time the base was Colorado’s largest employer. Lowry Field began in 1924 near the present site of Park Hill Golf Club. It was named after a Denver native who was a World War I aerial observer killed in 1918. In 1937 the site of an old sanatorium was approved to be the site of an Air Corps Training School which later evolved into the new Lowry AFB. Again, numerous illustrations add interest.
Editor’s Note: Cochise Valley Corral seems to be one of our most active as they are always on the move. Lately they have been inviting other corrals to go with them. Enjoy two recent trips as told by our best correspondent, Doug Hocking. More pics on WI Extra p. 3.

By Doug Hocking

On March 26 Trail Boss Matt Greenway led the corral on a trip to see the Pennington House, Lagunas de Anza and the Ruby Loop. Members of La Frontera and the Tucson Corrals joined us pursuant to a general invite to area corrals to come along with us. By joining three corrals, Matt pulled off a significant coup.

Tony Sedgewick, who owns the property, met the corrals and told us the significance of the stone house. It was home to the Penningtons on the Santa Cruz River from about 1858 to 1866. It is probably the oldest surviving structure in Arizona built by Anglos. Sheriff Hocking, by the way, claims Sedgewick is his cousin since their families intermarried at Stockbridge, MA, around 1720.

Tony took us to the nearby Mexican border where Dan Judkins of La Frontera Corral explained the significance of the Graham Cut-off to Cooke’s Wagon Road. This was the main southern route in 1849 and early 50s during the California Gold Rush and ran through Mexico in what is today Sonora and the Gadsden Purchase.

We stopped briefly across the Santa Cruz from the ruins of Quevavi Mission, first structure in Arizona built by Europeans, founded by Padre Kino in 1691.

We pressed on to Lagunas de Anza, also Tony’s property, now turned into a park. Journals left by explorers identify these small lakes as the first place the de Anza expedition of 1775 stopped in what is now the U.S. on its way to found San Francisco.

After lunch in Nogales, we pressed on down the Ruby Loop. Ruby is a ghost town dating back to the 1870s. As the sun set we made our way to Arivaca to end our day.

The Ghost Town Trail

On June 11 three corrals, Adobe, Cochise and Tucson, met in Benson for breakfast before Greenway led us to the Ghost Town Trail.

We began our tour at the railroad town of Cochise and the Cochise Hotel, the oldest surviving railroad hotel in the U.S. and also the most haunted in Arizona. Big Nose Kate, Doc Holliday’s main squeeze was once housekeeper here. Owner Phil Gessert showed us through and how to play Faro. More information about the hotel can be found online at www.CochiseHotel.net.

Sheriff Hocking gave a talk on the 1899 Train Robbery that happened here.

The corrals pushed on to Pearce Cemetery where Lincoln’s bodyguard, General Sherman’s adjutant and William Old are buried. Old was an Arizona Ranger shot by his own wife, also buried here. We then visited the Pearce Store and jail.

It was on to Courtland where Trail Boss Matt talked about the jail. They used an abandoned mine until an inmate put his mattress against the wooden door in an attempt to burn it down. Instead he nearly suffocated and a proper jail was built. It was so nice and the food so good people liked to stay and referred to it as Bright’s Hotel. Our group found some samples of native copper, malachite, azurite and turquoise.

Across the Turquoise Mountain we came to Gleeson. There we met Joe Bono, one of the last residents who moved away in the early 1950s. He (Continued on page 7)
Back years ago when my children were young, I read aloud to them every book in the *Little House on the Prairie* series by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Her descriptions of frontier living always entertained me. One episode I think of often, because it is such a good metaphor for life, is when the family gets caught up in a thundering bison herd. To stop would have been disaster. To continue along was exhausting. The trapped family kept moving with the herd, having no other solution to their peril.

Obviously the Ingalls family survived. But it metaphorically exemplifies the peril that Westerners International currently faces. Westerners is currently stuck in a herd of circumstances that is propelling us along in directions that are no longer under our control. The herd of bison is not going to stop. We need a solution and possibly a new patch of prairie – a new Home Ranch. Like the Ingalls’ dilemma of wanting to stop, but having to continue to their exhaustion, your Home Ranch will not stop until we can find that quiet patch of prairie untrammelled by thundering herds. We will be doing our work as usual, although at a limited pace. We will be at the WHA conference in October doing the same job we always have, manning our booth, conducting our board meeting, and presenting awards at our afternoon reception. I encourage other Westerners to join us. We can always use the help, certainly this year.

The pace we are on is unsustainable. As with the previous Home Ranch in Tucson, Arizona, your Oklahoma City group after 29 years, because of age and health, must ask for your help. It’s time to pass the reins to the next generation.

Soon your sheriff will receive a packet that explains what your Home Ranch does. I appeal to you, my fellow Westerners, to consider pulling us out of that thundering herd of circumstance and volunteer your services. Westerners may be leaving its current home at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. When, and if that happens, our capabilities to serve you effective will diminish. It’s time for others to step forward with fresh ideas and new ways of doing things. **OLD JOE NEEDS YOU!**

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**Corral Publishes Latest Issue**

The *Territorial Times*, publication of the *Prescott Corral*, has a number of interesting articles in the May Issue. The lead story is “Arizona and the Medal of Honor” which traces the state’s Medal of Honor winners from the early 1860s. Other articles include how Arizona women “coped during the Great Depression,” the restoration of Arizona’s first newspaper press and “Territorial Era Baseball in Prescott and Yavapai County.” Copies of this always interesting publication are available. More information can be obtained from Box 11086, Prescott, AZ, 86304-1086.
Good Summer Reading Shared

For those who like to read and like their stories about real people and events, an interesting book arrived at the Home Ranch. “The Lonesome Death of Billie Grayson” subtitled “And Other Killings in Early-Day Lincoln County” is by Wayne Pounds who has selected “seven documented nonfiction narratives about killings” which occurred in his Oklahoma home county between 1897 and 1941. Each of the cases involving ordinary people is told in an interesting manner and is well-sourced.

Pounds, who received his doctorate at the University of Kansas spent the past 30 years teaching in Japan. The soft-cover book is published by Tate Publishing, 127 E Trade Center Terr., Mustang, OK 73064.

Want to see more news from Westerners? Check the WI Extra pages after the regular bulletin. Find them on our web page:

www.westerners-international.org

Melvena Heisch and husband John are shown at a WI Executive Board Meeting. John is a board member and Melvena a former member. (File photo)

Westerner Receives Honor

Melvena Heisch, member of the Chisholm Trail Corral, Oklahoma City, is one of four preservation officers in the U.S. to be honored this year with the Secretary of the Interior’s Historic Preservation Award. She is the state’s deputy preservation officer and received the award in the State Historic Preservation Officer category.

She was recognized for her four decades of service and her commitment to historic preservation through patience, perseverance and tenacity and her efforts to protect America’s diverse cultural and historical heritage for the education and enjoyment of future generations.

The award was presented June 17 in Washington, D.C. by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell.
Standing above, l to r, Mary Marvel and Don Reeves pass out board information. Also pictured Burnis Argo and Kent McInnis. Rodger Harris is shown above right.

Above are Bill Deupree, left, and Ed Kelsay, Juti Winchester, front, right photo, and a group of Westerners study the financial report. Above right are, l to r, Matt DeSpain, meeting guest, Brent Cummings and Fred Marvel.

Photos by Jim Argo
Executive Board Meeting  
May 26, 2016

Kent McInnis, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to order at 11:00 a.m.

Present: Burnis Argo, Jim Argo, Brent Cummings, Bill Deupree, Rodger Harris, John Heisch, Ed Kelsay, John Marshall, Fred Marvel, Mary Marvel, Kent McInnis, Dennis Noble, Sandra Noble, Don Reeves, Juti Winchester.

Guests: Matt DeSpain, Bob Winchester.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the January 19, 2016 Executive Board meeting were reviewed. F. Marvel moved that the minutes be accepted, seconded by B. Cummings. Minutes approved as submitted.

Financial Report

M. Marvel gave a report on Westerners International finances covering January 1 - May 26, 2016. The current balance of the operating account at MidFirst Bank is $9,358.44 with $26,404.30 in our Arvest Bank Assets Accounts. She remarked that comparing the current WI financial status with our position at the same month in 2015, WI income is down approx. $5,500 while expenses are down $500. Our Oklahoma Community Foundation account is $165,976 with a market value of @209, 101.10.

M. Marvel noted that as of April, 33 of 60 active WI corrals have paid dues.

E. Kelsay moved that the financial report be approved as submitted. J. Marshall seconded. Motion approved.

Office Report

B. Argo noted that this spring Home Ranch crew had created 3 binders detailing all of the property and fixed assets of WI and sent a copy to WI President Juti Winchester and to the interested parties in Arizona. One binder has been received back from Arizona. B. Argo agreed to serve as editor of the Buckskin Bulletin for one more issue, June 2016. She has been editor for 24 years. Cheryl McInnis has expressed interest in assuming duties of BB editor in the fall.

Old Business

The Western Historical Quarterly will now be published by the University of Oklahoma Press in Norman, Oklahoma. The WHA staff offered WI a full-page ad in the upcoming issue, a $700 value. The ad is already in production and should help increase interest in WI’s participation at the WHA conference.

New Business

R. Harris, Chair of the WI Awards Committee, reported that nine individuals have agreed to serve as judges this summer. The award submissions are up in several categories this year.

The Executive Committee continued the discussion on the potential relocation of the WI headquarters. Chairman K. McInnis reviewed a list of nine potential relocation sites that had been offered or suggested by committee members. Several of these locations were dismissed as impractical after discussing their advantages and disadvantages one at a time. Other locations were offered up by the committee members and President J. Winchester.

B. Cummings and E. Kelsay remarked that a successful relocation site for the headquarters should have two to three WI corrals nearby to provide a volunteer base for operating the WI office. Also, R. Harris noted that such a volunteer base needs to be young so that WI can build another strong office staff for the future.

There was a general agreement that it was time to approach the Oklahoma corrals to see if there may be such volunteer support within the three active corrals. McInnis called for a special committee to further explore the process of relocating the WI headquarters within the Oklahoma area or to another state.

D. Reeves agreed to head this Relocation Committee and E. Kelsay, B. Cummings, Fred Marvel, Bill Deupree, Jim and Burnis Argo agreed to serve with the assistance of President J. Winchester. (This subcommittee held the first meeting directly after the Executive Committee meeting and assigned numerous action items to those present.)

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Don Reeves,  
Secretary
More Scenes from Southern Arizona

Photos Provided by Doug Hocking

From the ghost town of Ruby—above the remains of the Ruby Merchantile. Right is the town Jail.

Before the Ghost Town Tour some members of the three corrals participating gathered for breakfast at the Horse Shoe Café in Benson, above. At right is the old Cochise Hotel, oldest surviving railroad hotel in the US. Above right is the tombstone of Arizona Ranger William Old at the Pearce Cemetery.