Westerners International Board Meeting and Reception
at Western History Association Conference

Western History would be dull, if it wasn’t for the turbulent times it produced. Today we settle such issues with a bit more refinement. Cooperation, though, is not by definition dull. One such advancement in the study of the West has been the integration of myriad historical organizations under the umbrella of our yearly host at the Western History Association Conference. WHA, since its inception, has treated Westerners International with the highest honor and respect. Outgoing Executive Director John Heaton is the standard bearer of how to be a good friend to our organization. Always helpful and patient, Dr. Heaton and his wife and Program Coordinator, Rebecca George-Heaton, have never let us down, even when overwhelming circumstances made our jobs at the Home Ranch a challenge. We will miss their assistance and friendship to us at the Oklahoma City Home Ranch.

Which brings us to the issues coming to this year’s WHA Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota. Westerners International goes annually to this conference free of major expenses. It is our chance to showcase our organization as the group that not only loves Western history, but has fun to boot. We Westerners are the audience that historians need to fill their lecture halls. Westerners like to learn. We also like to have fun. We never like to follow rules, just like those who moved west to be free of such dull restrictions.

Every year Westerners holds its most important Board of Directors meeting at this conference. This year will be of prime importance, since Westerners International must leave our 29-year host at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. We leave with only gratitude, but we must select a new home. The entire agenda for this year’s board meeting will be to evaluate proposals from our membership for relocating to a new state. The Westerners Home Ranch encourages all other Westerners who can join us in St. Paul to attend this most important of meetings at 3:30 pm, October 21st, in the Kellogg I conference room. If you haven’t already, sign up for our annual reception, awards presentations, and book auction, in the same room immediately following our board meeting.

OLD JOE WANTS YOU!
Melody Kruger reviewing 1st place Best Book, Luke Short, for the Chisholm Trail Corral's September meeting. Photos by Cheryl McInnis

2015 Award Winners

Co-Founders “Best Book” Award
1st Place
Chuck Parsons & Jack DeMattos
English Westerners Society
The Notorious Luke Short: Sporting Man of the Wild West
University of North Texas Press

2nd Place
Rose Marie Beebe & Robert M. Senkewicz
San Francisco Corral, San Francisco, California
Junipero Serra: California, Indians, and the Transformation of a Missionary
University of Oklahoma Press

3rd Place
Geraldine Knatz
Los Angeles Corral, Los Angeles, California
Terminal Island: Lost Communities of Los Angeles Harbor
Angel City Press

Coke Wood Award for Monographs & Articles
1st Place
James E. Potter
Omaha Corral, Omaha, Nebraska
“Thomas B. Hord: From the Open Range to ‘The Largest Live Stock Feeding Enterprise in the United States’”

2nd Place
Amy L. McKinney
Pahaska Corral, Cody, Wyoming
“There When We Need Them”

3rd Place
Brian Dervin Dillon & David Erin Dillon
Los Angeles Corral, California
“Wyatt and Josie Earp: Fact, Fiction, and Myth”

Philip A. Danielson Award for Best Programs
1st Place
Michael J. Ober
NW Montana Posse, Kalispell, MT
“Historic Photos from Glacier Park’s Black & White Days”

2nd Place
Doug Hocking
Cochise County Corral, Bisbee, Arizona
“The Black Legend of Lieutenant George Bascom”

3rd Place
Vern Erickson
Fort Abraham Lincoln Corral, Bismarck, North Dakota
“Historic Music”

Fred Olds Western Poetry Award
1st Place
Bernice Landers
Jedediah Smith Corral, Hot Springs, South Dakota
“The Prolapse”

The Notorious Luke Short: Sporting Man of the Wild West
By Chuck Parsons and Jack DeMattos

In Old West Lore, gunslingers got more publicity than sporting men, but sporting men had more fun. Although Luke Short was true to his name, short in stature at 5’ 7”, his life is a real tall tale. He never achieved the lasting fame of his associates, Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp—too bad, Luke’s life would have been perfect for a TV Series starring Danny DeVito.

Luke started out as a cowboy and Scout for the army but gambling was less work and had greater benefits, such as beautiful wife and stylish clothes. Luke parlayed his Keno playing and quick draw into fame and wealth. He was part owner of two of the most famous Wild West Saloons: the Long Branch in Dodge City and the White Elephant in Ft. Worth. From owning a stable of racing horses to promoting prize fights, Luke Short was a real sport.
It is with mixed feelings that we announce the retirement of an indispensable member of the Westerners Home Ranch in Oklahoma City. Since 1992, Burnis Argo has been office wrangler, mentor, and Buckskin Bulletin Editor for Westerners International. She was well prepared for her duties, having worked for 10 years as a staff writer for the Oklahoma Publishing Company’s two newspapers. Burnis published one book titled, *Historic Tour Guide of Oklahoma*. She later wrote the copy for another book to be published about her late father Preston George and his extensive photographic steam locomotive tour de force. As a longtime Westerner, Burnis began her membership in the first female-only posse in Westerners, appropriately-named Oklahoma Women’s Posse, now in dry camp. She helped found the Chisholm Trail Corral in Oklahoma City, later serving as Sheriff and then Corral Rep. Last year the Chisholm Trail Corral named Burnis Argo “Living Legend #59,” only the third woman in Westerners to be so honored.

Since taking over my duties as chairman of Westerners International in 2008, Burnis Argo has continued to be my mentor and booster. In the past nine years there have been ups and downs in the functioning of our Home Ranch. Burnis was always there to remind me that my judgement was good – or not so good. Having her honest assessment of my leadership was always a blessing. Another blessing was her organizational abilities that kept me focused on my job, not worried about someone else’s task. I often quote Charles de Gaulle, who is credited with the saying that “the graveyards are full of indispensable men.” That always seemed like immutable wisdom, until it happened to the Home Ranch. The indispensable man, or woman in this case, is Burnis. We will be left adrift for a while, without wind in our sails. A ship’s rudder doesn’t work well without a push. We will miss that breath of fresh air that after 24 years still is Burnis Argo.

Announcement from WI President Juti Winchester

Westerners International to present at Western History Association


Westerners International Session
10:15-11:45, Sunday October 23

Meeting Room: State I

This panel discussion will focus on “the new normal” facing museums, historic sites, and other humanities institutions. In a time of budget shortfalls and increasing demands for relevance, how can public intellectuals re-tool their programs and initiatives to meet the future? What do we tell our students about this brave new world of scarcity and scrutiny?

Moderator: Kent McInnis, Executive Director, Westerners International

Panelists:
Jay Price, Wichita State University
Seth Bate, Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute
Juti A. Winchester, Fort Hays State University
Arizona: Prescott Corral

The 13th Annual Western History Symposium features interesting and informative presentations by historians, educators, and authors on a variety of subjects relevant to our western heritage. Admission to the presentations is FREE, open to the public, and reservations are not necessary.

A highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the Sharlot Hall Award, an annual recognition of a living Arizona woman who has made valuable contributions to the understanding and awareness of Arizona and its history. Recipient of the Award for the year 2015 is Waldrill “Wal” Bundy of Benson, Arizona. For more information about her recognition, go to sharlot.org/sharlothallaward.

For additional information about the Western History Symposium, contact the coordinator Fred Val by phone at 520-432-3221 or email: fval@valcenter.org.

Arizona: Corral de Ambos Nogales

Henry P. Walker’s son, Bud Walker, sent this picture of his dad and members of the Corral de Ambos Nogales, now in dry camp, at its inauguration.

Tucson Corral: Smoke Signals

The Tucson Corral has around 100 members. On April 4, 2016 the Corral, along with Sheriff Arlene Strum and past Sheriff Jim Klein, presented Bruce Dinges with a plaque celebrating 30 years as editor of The Journal of Western History.

Corral News

New Corrals
Canyon Corral in Canyon, TX
NW Montana Posse in Kallispell, MT

Back in the Saddle
Ft. Worth Corral, Ft. Worth, TX

Complete info on the WI webpage
CORRAL ROUNDUP

More information on the WI Web Page: http://westerners-international.org/bulletin.shtml

California

LA Corral Celebrates

70th Anniversary

THE LOS ANGELES CORRAL OF WESTERNERS
Cordially invites you to attend this:
70th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon
AT THE UNIVERSE CLUB OF PASADENA

375 North Oakland Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

October 22, 2016
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
$50.00 per attendee


Fandango at the Hurst Ranch

By Paul McClure · Updated about 2 months ago

San Dimas Corral of Westerners

Check the Buckskin Bulletin Extras on the web for more about Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, S. Dakota, Texas. Utah, and Wyoming.
International Corral Spotlight

British Westerners are Active

Westerners International has 61 stateside corrals and 14 international groups. This year’s Heads Up Award for Overseas Corrals went to The English Westerners Society of London. The British Westerners Association also is an active corral out of Birmingham. Here and in the Buckskin Bulletin Extra are some excerpts from their Round Up publication.

Excerpts from the Prerie Express publication of the Czech Republic Corrals, celebrating 25 years. Below: cover of the European Westerners Meeting 2000 publication.

See more on the web, including news from the WI Vice-president of Eastern Europe, Jindrich Bilek. He plans to create the Czech-Australian Pony Express, actually delivering postal parcels.

Buckskin Bulletin
Issued Quarterly by Westerners International, a Foundation to stimulate interest and research in North American frontier history.

Send correspondence to:
Westerners International
c/o National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Phone: 1-800-541-4650
Email: WIHomeRanch@gmail.com
Web Page: www.Westerners-International.org

Annual Dues: $5 per member

Home Ranch Bunch: Kent & Cheryl McInnis, Don Reeves, Fred and Mary Marvel, Rodger Harris, Ed Kelsay, Bill Deupree, John Heisch, Sandi & Dennis Noble, John Marshall, Bob Berry, Brent Cummings, Harvey Pratt, Matt DeSpain

Editor: Cheryl McInnis
Summer WI Board Meeting

Westerners International
Executive Board Meeting
July 19, 2016

Kent McInnis, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to order at 11:03 a.m.


Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the May 26, 2016 Executive Board meeting were reviewed. J. Marshall moved that the minutes be accepted, seconded by J. Heisch. Minutes approved as submitted.

Financial Report

M. Marvel gave a report on Westerners International finances (see attached report). She compared the 2nd quarter finances of 2015 and 2016. It was noted that the $5,000 decrease reflected the $5,000 donation by the Indian Territory Posse. The current balance of the operating account at MidFirst Bank is $9,946.11 with $4,511.11 discretionary funds available after deducting upcoming expenses. Marvel remarked that the expenses of WI this spring are comparable to those of one year ago. She compared the current WI financial status with our position at the same month in 2015. M. Marvel noted that as of April 2016, 35 of 61 active WI corrals (Ft. Worth Corral re-activated) have paid dues. The Executive Committee has checked with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and confirmed that the WI endowment can be maintained with that Foundation if the office moves to a new state. D. Noble moved that the financial report be approved as submitted. E. Kelsay seconded. Motion approved.

Office Report

Burnis Argo placed the June 2016 issue of the Buckskin Bulletin online and copies were distributed. The printed version will be mailed by Aug. 1. Argo has been editor for 24 years has asked to step down. Cheryl McInnis will assume the duties of BB editor in the fall. The entire Executive Committee expressed their gratitude to B. Argo for her excellent work and years of service and devotion.

Old Business

The Western History Association conference will be held October 20-23, 2016 in St. Paul, MN. The WI will hold a cocktail reception and fundraiser at the conference. WI President J. Winchester will lead the WI Session on public history at 10:15 am on Sunday October 23. The annual fall Board of Directors meeting will be held on October 21. Attending will be Kent and Cheryl McInnis, Juti and Bob Winchester and Matt DeSpain. The main focus of the meeting will be the relocation of the WI headquarters.

R. Harris, Chair of the WI Awards Committee, has had health problems, however, he is recovering and the entrees for the awards have been sent out to the various judges thanks to the efforts of M. Marvel and F. Marvel and K. McInnis.

New Business

D. Reeves, Chair of the new Relocation Committee, reported that the officers of the local Oklahoma corrals have met to discuss the possibility of additional volunteer help for the headquarters. Also emails have been sent to the membership of these three corrals. One new volunteer has come forward from the corral in Norman, Oklahoma.

A new brochure, assessing information about the relocation effort, has been written and printed. This was accomplished largely through the efforts of Bernis and Jim Argo. The brochure has been mailed to the sheriff or corral representative of each active corral.

The discussion on the potential relocation of the WI headquarters continued and Chairman K. McInnis noted which corrals have recently communicated their interest. D. Reeves noted that the timetable for the move from the Museum is not urgent, but is flexible to allow continued discussion and the logistics of relocation. However, the Exec. Comm. agreed that a decision this fall is necessary.

D. Reeves made a motion calling for the Executive Committee to issue a formal Request for Proposals from the active WI corrals with the presentation of these proposals to be held at the annual fall Board of Directors meeting on October 22, in St. Paul, Minnesota, at the WHA meeting and a relocation decision announced by December 31, 2016. J. Marshall moved that the motion be approved as submitted. E. Kelsay seconded. Motion approved.

B. Dupree noted that any corral accepting the responsibility of the new WI headquarters will be responsible for providing new leadership for the Executive Committee of WI. J. Marshall reminded the Exec. Comm. that new committee members and WI officers were required from the local corral when the headquarters moved from Arizona to Oklahoma. D. Reeves recommended Matt DeSpain as a new member of the WI Board of Directors and the Executive Committee due to his active role in the Norman Corral and interest in WI. The appointment of Dr. DeSpain was unanimously approved.


Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Reeves, Secretary

Pictures of Corral & Posse activities for our web page and the Bulletin Extra online. Email as attachments—minimum 500 kb in size. Please include names and places, and the photographer.

You may mail 4x6 or 5x7 color photos to:

Westerners International
c/o National Cowboy Museum
Buckskin Bulletin Editor
1700 NE 63rd
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
wihomeranch@gmail.com
Wishing Burnis Argo a Happy Retirement!

Burnis has been with the WI Home Ranch in Oklahoma City from the early days. For the last 24 years she has faithfully produced the bulletin for all the WI members. Some of her more recent innovations have included the publishing the bulletin online with the addition of the Extra Pages that readers find on the WI Webpage. She always admonishes, “Read it in online and enjoy it in color.” The additional online pages (at no extra publishing costs) also give more room for information and pictures about our corrals and members. She encouraged readers to send in pictures and information about their corrals. Burnis was there at the beginning and had the vision to keep the publication alive by innovating and reinventing the content and format. Job well done, Burnis!

Fred Marvel, Jim Argo and Burnis Argo at the Chisholm Trail Corral.

Please send any thoughts or wishes to Burnis at the WI Home Ranch email address. We will pass it along to her.
More from Arizona

Cochise County Corral of the Westerners Moves to Tombstone

Sheriff Doug Hocking reports the City of Tombstone is welcoming them with open arms and will allow rent-free use of the historic Schieffelin Hall.

Excerpt from newsletter

More from California—San Francisco

Excerpt from newsletter

California—San Dimas Corral

Excerpt from newsletter

Excerpt from newsletter
The WI Extra

Vol. XLIX Newsletter of Westerners International Issue 3 2016 Page 2

Colorado Corrals

BOULDER CORRAL OF WESTERNERS
MONDAY, Sept. 19, 2016
"The Stereo views of Ed Tangen, the Boulder Pictureman"
by Ed Bathke

Tangen opened a photo gallery in Boulder in 1903, and between 1906 and 1951 he took over 16,000 photos. From 1906 to 1918 he produced about 2,700 stereo views, popular at that time when every home parlor had a viewer to look at the photos with their three-dimensional effect. He photographed not only the Boulder vicinity, but many other towns around, such as Louisville, Leyden, Lyons, Golden, and Morrison. As this business decreased, Tangen became the Identification Officer for the Boulder Police Department, and continued in that role for over 30 years, until his death in 1951.

1st Annual Rendezvous—Pikes Peak Posse

To all members of the Boulder County Corral of Westerners,

In the tradition of multi-corral and posse rendezvous of the Westerners years ago, several years ago the Colorado Corral hosted a rendezvous at Norm Meyer's ranch in Comfier. It was attended by the Colorado Corral, Denver Posse, Boulder Corral, Fort Collins Corral, and Pikes Peak Posse. This year the Pikes Peak Posse is sponsoring a rendezvous in Colorado Springs to which all groups and their members and guests are invited. Information follows below.

Who: Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners

What: Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners 1st Annual Rendezvous

When: August 7, 12:00 pm – 3 pm

Where: Historic Chapel @ Evergreen Cemetery
1005 S. Hancock Exp'y.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Why: Please join us for our...

Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners 1st Annual Rendezvous

* Mix and mingle with fellow Westerners, authors, local Reenactors and like minded history buffs from all over Colorado

* Enjoy a catered Dickey's BBQ luncheon in an outdoor setting with homemade Desserts by members. Enjoy some cool and refreshing Manitou Mineral Water Lemonade! Why not make it a family event?

* Live Music by Charlie Katz
* 1880's Troopers on Horseback
* Gary Ziegler's Ballad of Sheriff Kelly
* Mini tours
* Prizes
* Activities for children

Submit your pictures, newsletters, publications, and other information to the Buckskin Bulletin. A digital submission is preferred, but we will take print copies. Be sure digital pictures are at least 500 KB or larger in size.
Send: to wihomeranch@gmail.com.

Excerpt from newsletter

The Denver Westerners Roundup is a collection of manuscripts published bimonthly by the Denver Posse of Westerners.
Omaha Westerners Honor Mark George Hyde

On August 6, 2016, members of the Omaha Corral of the Westerners gathered in Omaha’s Prospect Hill Cemetery to unveil a new gravestone for famed western historian George Hyde. In his day Hyde (1182–1968) was a prolific historian of the American Indian. He authored dozens of books and had a special interest in Nebraska’s Pawnee, Oglala, and Brule Sioux Indians. Historians regard these books as primary source material. He worked under extraordinary physical limitations, being partially blind and totally deaf from an early age.

Taken from article: Omaha Westerners, Mark George Hyde Grave
Article and pictures submitted by Paul Hedren
Submit your pictures, newsletters, publications, and other information to the Buckskin Bulletin. A digital submission is preferred, but we will take print copies. Be sure digital pictures are at least 500 KB or larger in size.
Send: to wihomeranch@gmail.com.
The Jedidiah Smith Corral in Hot Springs, South Dakota took a field trip on June 10th, 55 miles north, to visit a whaling village in Rapid City. Our host was Jerry Root, and he has always been interested in whaling. For his 70th birthday he took a trip on a schooner in the Atlantic Ocean. Mr. Root has transformed his backyard into a whaling village. As you enter the gate, which is marked with the longitude and latitude, you walk on well laid paths of local, used brick. There is a lighthouse with a man on top that is to scale. The main focus is an old row boat that Mr. Root made into a two-masked schooner. All the rigging and cannons are proportional to the boat. He even carved some pirates and a dog with pegs on the bottom so that he can position them in the ship.

Along the back of the small property is a boardwalk along storefronts with names from old books and movies. The pier has barnacles and ropes, and pelicans perched on them. He also has old lighting, a lobster trap and other old items. What was amazing, is that Mr. Root did it all himself. About 15 years ago, when he retired as a sign painter, he started to draw up the intricate plans, and made the calculations to have the lighthouse and the boat made to scale.

Later, he took us into his house to show us what else he has done. He built the house himself. The open beams and stair are all intricately, hand carved. His fireplace is made of rock and slate that he collected around the area. There were several bottles into which he had placed hand-made wooden boats, all to scale. He also had paintings, sculptures, castings, and wood-carved hand-made guns. All of which were originals made by Mr. Root.

His work in progress is an icy scene with a carved whale and a boat with a 6’ hunter that will be entered at the Central States Fair. Since everything is done to scale, that 6’ man was about 1-2 inches tall.

Although a very different field trip, it was educational and enjoyable.
Texas: Palo Duro Corral

Left—Dr. Garry Nall, Ken Pirtle, Bill Faubion, Rick Neeley, Jim Uselton, Barry Stephens, Jim Jennings, Dale Meixer, Ed Benz, Rodney Laubhan, guest Bill Harris, Dr. J. Paul Matney, Billy Campsey and Jack Williams

Submitted by Kenneth Pirtle

Utah Westerner’s 2016 Summer Excursions

The Utah Westerners and their guests went on two field trips over the past two months.

Article continued page 10.
On Wednesday, July 20th the Casper Posse of Westerners received their monthly program from Posse member Johanna Wickman, who introduced her first book, “Lost Forts of Casper.” Afterwards, Johanna signed copies of her book for members of the Casper Posse. Johanna’s book addresses the full range of Army Posts in the Casper area, to include the military post at Richard’s Bridge that secured the Overland Trails before the Civil War, and the large regimental camp of Camp Dodge located on the slopes of Casper Mountain during the first half of 1865. This book is based on her Master’s Thesis, and is heavily illustrated. Casper Posse Sheriff Douglas R. Cubbison provided the foreword. Johanna’s book “Lost Forts of Casper” was published by the History Press, and is available from them or through any book vendor (https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467119221).
The WI Extra
Vol. XLIX Newsletter of Westerners International Issue 3 2016 Page 8

Pony Express between Europe and Australia

To: The Board of Directors W.I. Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, USA

Warm greetings to all of you from Czech Republic. My name is Jindrich Bilek and I'm vice president of W.I. in Eastern Europe. My involvement to propagate ideas of founders of W.I. in Czechoslovakia.

I became vice president during my personal visit of Central Cowboy Hall of Fame. On my personal request you accepted Czechoslovakian Pony Express as the first W.I. corral in Czechoslovakia. The letter of Order number 121, is a proof our acceptance in to world organization of Westerners International and it was presented to us in presence of all members of Czechoslovakian Pony Express by hon. US ambassador Shirley Temple-Black in Prague. (video footage attached).

I have established Pony Express with few friends in year 1985. The idea was to honor the memory of riders of US Pony Express. During this time, in mid-eighties in Czechoslovakia, we were not allowed to have anything to do with USA. After my promotion in to position of vice president of W.I. in region of Eastern Europe I've managed to establish and to register the branch of W.I. Czechoslovakia in Prague.

During this time the organization Westerners International was represented by Pony Express corral and corral Indians. After 1989, when communist regime collapsed, the new corrals of W.I. CZ emerged.

To collaborate internationally to spread ideas of Leland D. Case and Elmo Scott Watson, I've managed to acquire interest from German westerners in 1987. Other westerners in Poland and Austria joined in rides of Pony Express after year 1990. That was the start of European Pony Express under the name EPEA (European Pony Express Association). From the position of vice president W.I. Oklahoma I started to expand the purpose of our organization with new events. For example, in 1994 corral Wells Fargo. This corral stimulated action under the name Westerners 2000, posters attached. Representatives of Czechoslovakian an W.I. corrals were at present during official acceptance in headquarters of Western International Hall of Fame and then during the meeting of Westerners in Arkansas. It was the very memorable event for all participants. Your acceptance of our idea to organize international meeting of Westerners early in the new millennium, was a beginning of an international collaboration. I think that is all we need to restore memories of past events.

That is why I'm writing to you. I'm sure that you are fully aware of prosperous life of W.I. CZ even without my personal presence as a director. I am in touch with elected president of W.I. CZ, Milan Mach, who has got me as helper during his uneasy task to lead this branched out organization. I think he is doing a sterling job in cracking some administration necessities during ongoing office's bureaucracy.

Now my hands are free of all the office work and that is why I'd like to present, as vice president of W.I., another project. It involves Europe area and new location Australia. What did bring to my attention was that in 1870 Aus- tralian Pony Express was involved in practical realization of Overland Telegraph. No need to write more about this fact. I'm sure that you have all the details. I'll be happy to supply all written evidence regarding O.T. project. On the other hand, I'll be interested in any additional information available from your library.

Knowledge of real existence of Pony Express Australia, is the task to keep the legendary thoughts of W.I. founders internationally alive. I'm starting a new project in 2017-2018. Intercontinental Pony Express ride from Czech Republic to USA and then to Australia. With this westerner event we would like to emphasize on the fact that in 2018 Czech and Slovak republics will celebrate 100 years of its inception and independence of Czechoslovakia, which was announced in Philadelphia USA on 26th October 1918. In this chain of interesting events there is another reason to link westerners together. At the present time I'm creating Czech-Australian Pony Express, which will head from the southern Bohemia to Prague and to Szczecin in Poland. From Poland this symbolical postal parcel will sail towards shores of America and then to Australia. Postal envelopes should represent historical transportation of migrants from Europe to USA and to Australia. This western event will take place in year 2017-2018 and in USA we are cooperating with National Pony Express Association with which we are in association since 1990. After reaching the port of Australia, Sydney, western riders of Australia from ATHRA (Australian Trail Horse Riders Association) will take mail to capitol of Australia. The distance of the symbolic mail route of the Australian Pony Express is 430 km and the reason it is heading to Canberra is the mail from our comrades and friends, who could return back home without persecution after the communist regime collapsed in 1989. The contents of letters will thank American and Australian people and its government for offering asylum during the time they could not return. There are many westerner`s bonds and in its final target there is again to keep the legacy of founders of W.I. also in Australia. In addition, we would love to start to collaborate with our friends in Australia to whom western became they life style.

In the order to get your moral support I'd love to receive your permission as a vice president of Westerners International in Eastern Europe, to be allowed to deal with organizations and offices in Australia and publicly appear as an appointed delegate of W.I. Also I would need your opinion in presenting of official Logo of W.I. in press and other social media. I do have your approval for Europe and I'd like to know if my initiative is welcomed. In the case of your acceptance of my plans to approach Australia in addition to your support I will need a bit of technical help such as letter heads with W.I. logo, which I will use during necessary correspondence. I'm running out of envelopes and letterheads with logo which I have received in past, also the newspaper and other informative material from headquarters in Oklahoma would be helpful to have. I've changed my mailing address from Mnisek pod Brdy to address in Jindrichuv Hradec and asking you to resume the correspondence like in past.

Thanks ahead for your reply and looking forward to our future cooperation. On behalf of the team of Czech-Australian Pony Express.

With kind regards,

Jindrich Bilek
Vice President of Westerners International in Eastern Europe

Following are some excerpts from the a letter to WI from Australian Pony Express. Following are some excerpts from the a letter to WI from Australian Pony Express.
Dear Friends,

We have a great chance to hear an outstanding speaker at the KC Posse meeting on Tuesday evening. We Jeff Broome brings with him a wealth of information as an author including his book Dog Soldier Justice.

What follows is the official meeting notice.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

s/ Phil Young
816-781-1825

Howdy Cowgirls and Cowboys!!

This is your notice of the TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016 meeting of The Kansas City Posse of the Westerners.

FUTURE MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS:

November 8, 2016-Erin Pouppirt, Kaw Nation Spokesperson, will speak about The Plains Indians.
December 13, 2016-Deb Buckner will speak about Custer's Best Friend: Mr. Lawrence Barrett.
January 10, 2017-Kent Johnson will speak about Money in the Old West.
February 14, 2017-Toby Giese will speak about John F. Blake, 1880 graduate of West Point, 6th Cavalry Apache Campaign 1880s-1890s.
March 14, 2017-Larry Short, President of the Missouri River Outfitters of the Santa Fe Trail, will speak about The Santa Fe Trail.

Excerpt from newsletter
**Annual Field Trip:** In June fifty-two Westerners and guests (including members of the Denver and Los Angeles corrals) went on a four-day trek to the history-rich regions of Butte and Helena, Montana. For starters, the Westerner crew headquartered at Butte’s grand old Finlen Hotel then did our tour guide and led us to the Granite Mountain Mine Disaster Memorial, the Labor History Museum, the restored Chinese Mai Wah Center, historic downtown Butte, the William A. Clark Mansion (Clark once having been a wealth mine owner and business entrepreneur), and the World Mining Museum that featured and underground mine tour.

This first action-packed day ended with a banquet at the Finlen Hotel's Ball Room where Clay Landry, a history consultant for the Hugh Glass movie “The Revenant,” served as guest speaker.

For the second day’s tour, we travelled to Helena, Montana’s State Capitol and were greeted by Ellen Baumler, a historian for the Montana State Historical Society. Ellen took us around Helena to places such as the city’s “Last Chance Gulch” and “Reeder’s Alley,” the Montana State Historical Society's Museum which boasts the Charles Russell Gallery, the Montana State Capitol Building where we viewed Russell’s largest painting, “Lewis and Clark Meeting the Flathead Indians at Ross’ Hole,” and finally the magnificent Cathedral of Saint Helena. For lunch that day, we dined with Helena's mayor, Jim Smith and Montana State Historical Society's director, Bruce Whittenburg.

On day three, we left the Finlen Hotel in order to savor a number of historically important sites along the Lewis and Clark trail, the Mountain Men’s fur-trade hangouts, and the location of Montana’s mining and Vigilante activities. Again, Ellen Baumler and accompanied us as did Montana Department of Transportation historian, Jon Axline. During the day, we learned about Montana's once notorious road between Virginia City and Bannack where highway robbers of the infamous Henry Plummer Gang held court, robbing, plundering and killing those foolish enough to try that trail during Montana's gold-rush days. At a place known as Robber's Roost, we were thrilled by the tales of Billy "Road Kill" Maxwell, a cultural anthropologist extraordinary who talked about living off the land, processing buffalo hides, and making stone instruments using Native American methods. We also visited "Alder Gulch" and Virginia City, the site of Montana’s largest gold rush and the locale of the state’s first vigilante hangings. Before heading for the Madison River Buffalo Jump State Park, Ellen Baumler treated us to a tour of the rustic and historic buildings of Virginia City. Once at Madison River Buffalo Jump State Park Superintendent Dave Andrus met with us to provide an interpretative lecture and a tour of the famous Headwaters of the Missouri State Park where the Madison, Jefferson and Gallatin River merge to create the mighty Missouri River, in a region that encompasses a site of the Lewis and Clark expedition as well as the location of Manual Lisa’s first fort in the West.

For our fourth day’s assemblage of events, Ellen Baumle and Jon Axline took us to the mountainous splendor of the Big Hole River where we visited the Big Hole River National Battlefield, a site made famous in the annuls of Chief Joseph’s Nez Perce wars. After this, we rounded off our field trip with a tour of the ghost town of Bannack, Montana where park ranger and historian, John Phillips showed us the well-preserved buildings at the place made famous for Montana’s first gold rush along Grasshopper Creek.

As a solemn and memorable conclusion to this wonderfully informative and fascinating 2016 Annual Field Trip, we held what we have always called our "Grasshopper Ceremony” to honor those Utah Westerners who have passed away. This we did, as we always do, by hoisting our cups of green libation to toast those departed members of the Utah Westerners. The ceremony fittingly took place on the banks of Montana’s Historical Grasshopper Creek.

Kudos go to Utah Westerner president, Steve Gallenson, and Westerner Brent Reber and Linda Thatcher for planning a great trip to Montana. Those who went this year had excellent experiences and will fondly recall the trip’s activities for many years.

**Soldiers in the Frontier Army** (Langellier will speak at the Fort Douglas Museum on August 8, 2016), and editor William P. MacKinnon’s 2nd volume on the Utah War:  *At Sword’s Point: A Documentary History of the Utah War, 1858-1859.*

Submitted and Written by Walter Jones
Mini-trip to Corinne, Utah: For the Westerners' July dinner, Utah Westerners and their guests, 67 total, travelled by bus for a special evening at Corinne, Utah (population in 2010: 685), one-time unofficial "Gentile Capitol of Utah" and now known as "The Gateway to Golden Spike." On the ride to Corinne, Westerner board member, Ken Cannon gave a fascinating presentation titled "The Corinethians: Corinne’s Territorial Championship Baseball Club, 1870." Once in the tiny community, we were greeted with a tour of the Corinne Masonic Lodge No. 5 which was dedicated on September 20, 1870 and became the first Utah’s Masonic Lodge north of Salt Lake City. We also visited the Corinne Methodist Episcopal Church which was opened in 1870 and is now on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the church is the oldest standing Protestant Church building in Utah.

The Westerners and their guests were then treated to a fabulous "signature" Dutch-Oven dinner that The Dutch Oven Shoppe of Utah prepared and served. Following this mouth-watering feast, Dr. Richard W. Sadler, Professor of History at Weber State University spoke on the wild, crazy and important history of Corinne.

Thanks go to Utah Westerners Linda Thatcher and Ken Cannon for putting this great mini-trip together.

As an aside, Utah Westerner board member, and Director of the Fort Douglas, Utah Museum, Bob Voyles is promoting the two new Western history books: John P. Langellier’s Fighting for Uncle Sam: Buffalo