

WESTERNERS

INTERNATIONAL

BUCKSKIN



BULLETIN

Ship to the Panhandle
Plains Historical
Museum,
Canyon, Texas

Spring 2017

**Westerners,
International Home
Ranch sets up shop at
the Panhandle Plains
Historical Museum
in Canyon, Texas**
www.panhandleplains.org

The Home Ranch Moves to Amarillo/Canyon, Texas

**DR. BONNEY MACDONALD TAKES
THE REINS AS CHAIRMAN**



The Westerner, International Board is pleased to introduce you to our new Chairman, Dr. Bonney MacDonald. Bonney grew up loving the lore of the American west. She has always been around horses, ranching and has been a passionate reader of books about the American West. Today she is an educator and shares this passion with student historians enrolled at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas.

Bonney MacDonald was born in New York and raised in California. She earned BAs in English and Psychology from Calif State Univ, Sacramento; an M.A. in American Studies from the Univ of Nottingham, in England; and a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale. She is Professor of English at West Texas A&M Univ, where she also served as Department Head from 2008-13, Director of the English graduate program, and Series Editor for "American Wests" at Texas A&M University Press. She teaches western American literature and, from 2004-09 taught college courses on a working ranch in New Mexico. She currently leads a summer workshop for adults entitled "Women, Horses, and the West" at the Zapata Ranch in Colorado. Her research interests have ranged from Henry James to Hamlin Garland, Frederick Jackson Turner, Willa Cather, Wallace Stegner, Aldo Leopold, Terry Tempest Williams, Gretel Ehrlich and 1920s cowboy author, Will James. In the local community, Bonney has served on varying outreach projects and local boards.

She grew up in the age of Hollywood Westerns and admits happily to not having given them up. She has been an active rider since the age of six and currently owns three horses – the most recent a mustang adopted from the BLM. She lives part-time in Canyon and part-time on a ranch near Colorado Springs. In her off-time, she spends time with her daughter, her dogs, and her horses; she's currently learning to rope, sort cows, and not embarrass herself in the branding pen.

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Message from Dr. Bonney MacDonald, Chairman

Greetings, Fellow Westerners -- here in the States and abroad! I write to you all from Canyon, Texas – home to many Western enthusiasts, scholars, ranchers, cowboys, and regular folks, too. Canyon also houses West Texas A&M University and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum – the largest history museum in the state. We here in the Panhandle of the Lone Star State are delighted to become the new residence for the Westerners International Home Ranch.

The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City was a beloved home for many years, and we Texans are honored to carry on a tradition of fun and scholarship in the organization. We have a terrific team in place with a knowledgeable and detail-oriented Treasurer in Gregg Bynum; a dedicated and expert secretary – as well as a graduate student in Western Literature – in Delinda King; a committed and talented Bulletin Editor in Kenneth Pirtle; and an excellent and knowledgeable Rep in Tim Bowman. And we have the talented Juti Winchester continuing as our President. On top of that we have a nexus of active Corrals in our area, with the latest headed up by Sheriff Michael Grauer, who is also Curator of Art and Western Heritage at the Museum. And last but certainly not least, we have dedicated Westerners from the Board who have been extraordinarily generous with their time and expertise – both in the move and in the (continuing!) transition to the new digs.



New Westerners, International Board meets in Canyon, Texas

Westerners, International made history when 24 Board members gathered at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas on February 4th, on the campus of West Texas A & M University. Westerners from the Llano Estacado Corral, Lubbock, Texas, the Goodnight Corral, Canyon, Texas and the Palo Duro Corral, Amarillo, Texas were in attendance. They voted in a new board, to re-establish WI banking and financial business in Texas and to set up the Home Ranch at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas.

The Board also unanimously selected a new slate of officers headed by Dr. Bonney MacDonald, Chairman, Gregg Bynum, Treasurer, Delinda King, Secretary and Kenneth Pirtle as Buckskin Bulletin Editor. Dr. Juti Winchester of Hays, Kansas will continue as President

Each of the Westerners involved in the new HR location expressed appreciation to Kent McInnis and wife Cheryl for their many years of dedicated service to Westerners, International. Kent, former Chairman of W.I., along with a hard-working team of Westerner volunteers packed up the office furniture, computers, art and files loaded them in to UHaul pods and shipped it all to Canyon, Texas. The boxes and parcels were carefully labeled, photographed and inventoried making simple work for the Canyon Texas Westerners to unload and organize.

Kent addressed the new Board members about the selection of Canyon as the new Home Ranch site and the worry and the relief that accompanied the transfer process. He also committed to continue his service to the new HR office as advisor.

Dr. Bonney MacDonald thanked the Board for her endorsement at the new Chair of WI. She shared with the group her passion for all things “Western” and her love of the old-west, cowboy novels, Hollywood Westerns along with ranching and horses. Dr. MacDonald, although a true “cowgirl” at heart is an academically trained scholar with a Ph.D in American Studies from Yale and serves as Professor of English at West Texas A&M University. Bonney lives in Canyon but spends part of her time on her ranch near Colorado Springs.

Bonney will set up the new office at the PPHM as soon as the space is available. Delinda King, WI Board Secretary, will serve WI as a part-time office manager and will soon be picking up the day to day chores of running the Home Ranch office.

The Board selected the date of April 24th for the next Board meeting for Westerners, International.

The Board meeting adjourned about 2:00pm.

Westerners in attendance:

Kent McInnis, Cheryl McInnis, Dr. Juti Winchester – from the previous WI board

Kenneth Pirtle, Jim Jennings, Rodney Laubhan and Dr. J. Paul Matney, Blair Rhodes, Joe Faulkenberry -of the Amarillo Palo Duro Corral

Delinda King, Robin Boedecker, Dr. Bonney MacDonald, Dr. Tim Bowman, Dr. Alex Hunt, Michael Grauer, Gregg Bynum -of the Canyon, Texas Goodnight Corral

David Cummins, Cindy Martin, Sally Still Abbe, Jack Becker, Chuck Lanehart –of the Lubbock, Texas Llano Estacado Corral.



Kent McInnis addresses the new Board



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Left photo - The Home Ranch mover helpers were Don Reeves, Mary Marvel, Fred Marvel, Kent McInnis, & Cheryl McInnis. In addition, the staff of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum assisted. **Middle photo** - Kent McInnis carefully removes "Old Joe" in preparation for the move. **Right Photo** - Dr. Alex Hunt, Dr. Bonney MacDonald, Rodney Lauhban, Dr. Bill Faulbion, Joe Faulkenberry and Ken Pirtle prepare to unload at the PPHM.

CORRAL NEWS



The **Huntington Westerners**, Pasadena California, met on February 4th and enjoyed a program by Claudia and Alan Heller on "Life on Route 66". Claudia and Alan made a life-changing decision in 2010 to retire from their jobs (at age 66) and buy a small trailer and set out to rediscover the "mother road", route 66. Traveling from Santa Monica Pier to Chicago, the Hellers wrote articles for a local paper and took photos along the way documenting their experiences.



Thanks to Stan Moore, Deputy Sheriff and program Chairman for the Denver Westerners, Denver, CO for sending along an impressive booklet produced by the group. There are fascinating stories of the "Colorado Mountain Club and the Gore Range" along with beautiful photographs from the Club's activities in serious mountain climbing, mostly in the mid 1930's. Some of these same climbing trips have been recreated by members of today's CMC. This booklet also contains some insightful book reviews especially **Ned Wynkoop and the Lonely Road From Sand Creek** by Louis Kraft.

Don Reeves has served as Westerners International Secretary for 29 years. This may be the longest tenure of any office holder in WI. He has been instrumental in helping run our organization, without much publicity or recognition. Thanks Don for all you have done for WI! Well done!

UTAH WESTERNERS' DECEMBER EXTRAVAGANZA

By Walter Jones

On the calm evening of December 19, 2016, a total of 64 Utah Westerners and guests met at Salt Lake City's esteemed Alta Club for one last dinner/meeting before closing out 2016. Those in attendance were treated to a fabulous experience.

To start the meeting off, UW president Steve Gallenson gave a short but very heartfelt farewell-to-the-presidency speech. Next outgoing president Gallenson reviewed a suggested addition to the organization's bylaws, an addition that calls for the recruiting, sponsoring, and mentoring each year a "special class of membership designed to recruit young people to become involved in the organization." Those recruited will be UW members for one year at the expense of the organization and its current members. UW members in attendance at the December meeting voted enthusiastically to add this suggested program to the bylaws.

Then our outgoing-but-highly-beloved president held the tradition drawing for UW donation giveaways which are usually, in the spirit of the organization's thirst for knowledge of the Great American West, books from the shelves of the likes of UW book dealers Gibbs Smith, Curt Bench and Ken Sanders and authors such as the colorful and skilled historian, Will Bagley. This time, however, UW member and renowned jeweler, Charles Freshman donated six of his hand-crafted UW bolo ties with their distinctive Utah Westerners pure silver "Buffalo Skull" emblem. Normally, one of Charles's ties retails for \$95 but for the December dinner meeting, six extremely lucky Westerners each won a coveted tie.

The Alta Club pulled out all the stops for the UW December dinner. Tables were decorated with beautiful centerpieces, wine was served, and the meal consisted of finely prepared salmon and steak. While the Alta Club always serves good dinners to the UW members and guests, this was one meal to remember most favorably.

After dinner, UW member and once-upon-a-time mentor and instructor to our speaker, Don Gale introduced the evening's guest performer, the illustrious and extremely talented communications specialist Craig Wirth. Mr. Wirth's credentials are stellar. Having worked in the New York and Los Angeles TV markets, he has earned four Emmy Awards for his productions. Moving back to Utah, he received in 2012 the Utah Broadcasting Association Hall of Fame award, and began serving as the Communications Director for the Episcopal Diocese of Utah as well as becoming an adjunct professor in the University of Utah's Communications Department where Don Gale was one of Craig's noteworthy professors. Currently, Craig conducts a Sunday evening program on Salt Lake City's Channel 4: "Wirth Watching," a popular feature focusing on stories of daily life in Utah.

Craig's presentation for the Westerners and their guests on this December evening at the Alta Club was fabulous. He gave a wealth of detailed and humorous remarks about his broadcasting work and showed fascinating video clips of such historic events as the flood of 1983 which resulted in a river's running down Salt Lake City's Center Street. His clips also included a 1954 prison riot at the Utah State Penitentiary that occurred over the inmates being served cold potatoes.

Of interest regarding this riot, the TV film crew that went to the prison to document the riot couldn't squeeze their cameras into the area where the riot was going on. So the crew persuaded the rioters and guards to transfer the commotion to a place outside the prison walls where the cameras could film the goings on.

Craig had a whole series of other unusual and spell-binding video shorts for the evening. All in all, his presentation was a great success and an outstanding way to end a year of high success for the Utah Westerners. The year 2016 is one for the books!



Craig Wirth Entertains the Utah Westerners in December



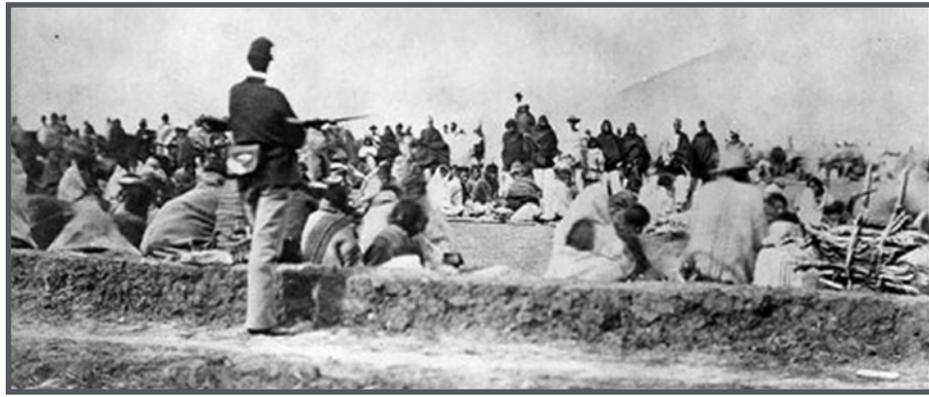
Celebrating the Utah Westerners Old Joe for the "Heads Up 2015 Award" are members (left to right), John Rapp, Steve Madsen, Steve Gallenson and Nate



Fort Sumner, New Mexico

by Jim Jennings

Palo Duro Corral Amarillo, Texas



Fort Sumner, New Mexico, has a long history in the settling of the West, and especially that of its home state. Located in eastern New Mexico, Fort Sumner began as an idea of Colonel James H. Carleton, who had originally been sent to New Mexico in 1862 to protect the state from a Confederate incursion. However, by the time Carleton got there, there was no more danger from the Confederates and he turned his attention to the Indian problem.

New Mexico became a territory of the United States in 1850, and the U.S. government believed that subduing the Indians and settling the lands of New Mexico was its duty. So, Carleton obtained approval to establish in the territory a new fort, which he named after General Edwin Vose Sumner.

Carleton initially justified the fort as offering protection to settlers in the Pecos River Valley from the Mescalero Apache, Kiowa and Comanche. However, he soon came up with some other plans for the fort, and felt that the site on the Pecos River would be a good site for an Indian reservation, which he planned to call Bosque Redondo. Carleton, by this time, had been appointed brigadier general, and he ordered Colonel Kit Carson, who was serving under him in New Mexico, to pursue and kill all Apache men and take the women and children captive to Fort Stanton, which was in Mescalero Apache territory. Carson hunted, killed and captured the Apache wherever he went. Among those captured was Chief Cadete. General Carleton told Cadete that in order to end the fighting, the tribe had to move to the new reservation he had planned. Facing certain extermination at the hands of Carleton's and Carson's military force, and tricked into thinking they would be given a new reservation in their own country near Fort Stanton, Cadete agreed to Carleton's terms and surrendered. In January 1863, nearly 500 Mescalero Apache were forced to leave their homeland and were exiled to Fort Sumner, more than 100 miles from their homes.

Having completed the surrender and exile of the Mescalero Apache, General Carleton turned his attention to solving the so called "Navajo problem," and again enlisted the help of Colonel Kit Carson. Carleton ordered Carson to attack the Navajo until they had been effectively punished for what Carleton said was their long continued atrocities. During the winter of 1863-1864, Carson's New Mexico Volunteers ravaged the countryside, killing Navajo, burning crops and orchards, killing livestock, destroying villages, and contaminating water sources. With no surplus of food, and nowhere left to hide, the starving Navajos were forced to march to the Bosque Redondo reservation, some 400 miles away. Over several marches, between the summer of 1863 and the winter of 1866, 11,500 Navajo started out for Bosque Redondo on what is remembered by the Navajo as "The Long Walk." Many died along the way, and only about 8,500 reached there.

The first prisoners, the Apaches, arrived at the fort less than a month after it was established. By March 1863, there were more than 400 Mescalero Apache at the reservation. By the end of 1864, they would be joined by more than 8,500 Navajo. In addition to nearly 500 soldiers and 200 civilians who

lived at the fort, the reservation had a population of nearly 10,000 people. Never in the history of New Mexico had so many people been together in one place. The Army only anticipated 5,000 would be there, so providing food, water, and shelter was a serious issue from the start.

Life at Bosque Redondo for the Mescalero Apache and Navajo people was miserable. There was no clean water, as the Pecos River was so alkaline that it was almost undrinkable, and there was no firewood to cook with. And to make matters worse, fighting between the two tribes, who had never lived in close proximity to one another, was constant. But despite insurmountable difficulties, the Apache and Navajo made the best of their horrible conditions, and by the summer of 1863, crops were planted. However, the complete harvest was lost due to cut worms. Since there were no crops, desperate measures were taken to provide meager Army rations to feed the Indians. Rations were constantly being reduced to keep up with the number of people needing to be fed, and both the Apache and Navajo became sick from eating Army food that was totally different from their normal diet.

Winters at Bosque Redondo were bitterly cold. Material was scarce to build adequate Apache teepees and Navajo hogans, and there was not adequate firewood to heat those they had. The prisoners were cold, sick and hungry, and literally at the mercy of the Army and its lack of resources to provide for them and keep them alive.

Still the two tribes were not getting along. The minority Apaches considered the Navajos enemies, and if the Army could not provide a separate reservation from them, then they'd much prefer to take their chances against the Comanches and Kiowas, two tribes with whom they were always at war. On the night of November 3, 1865, all 400 Mescalero Apache deserted the fort and headed back to their own country. Only nine people – who were either too old or sick to travel – remained to keep the campfires burning to fool the military into thinking that all was normal. The next morning, the soldiers realized the Apache were gone. Carleton went after them, but most escaped. The Apaches used the tactic of scattering to create many trails and frustrate their pursuers.

Word of the escape spread, and it became obvious to government officials that the Bosque Redondo Indian Reservation was a failure. In June 1865, a Joint Special Committee of congress visited the reservation to investigate conditions. They met with the leaders of the Navajo and listened for the first time as the captives explained the problems facing their people. The issue of Bosque Redondo was debated in Congress, but no action was taken immediately, and the Navajo were starving. In the meantime, in 1866, Texans Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving put together a herd of 2,000 head of Longhorns that they intended to drive to Colorado and sell. Going up what became known as the Goodnight-Loving Trail, the two cattlemen left their homes near Fort Belknap in Young County, Texas, and headed southwest via the Middle Concho River and through Castle Gap to Horsehead Crossing on the Pecos River. From there, they followed the Pecos north to Fort Sumner.

When Goodnight and Loving arrived at the fort with their 2,000 head of cattle, the army saw a way to feed the 8,500 Navajo who were still at Bosque Redondo and offered Goodnight and Loving eight cents a pound for all the steers. That amounted to \$12,000 in gold, and the two cattlemen were elated, even though the army refused to take 800 head of cows and calves that were in the herd. They had never sold cattle for so much money. Loving then went on to Colorado with the cows and calves, and sold them in Denver, while Goodnight returned to Texas with the gold to put together another herd. Goodnight drove the cattle over the same trail to Bosque Grande, about 40 miles below Fort Sumner. There Loving rejoined him, and they went into winter camp, but each month during the winter, they made deliveries of cattle to the reservation at Fort Sumner.

Finally, in 1867, General Carleton was removed from command, and in the spring of 1868, General William Sherman arrived at Fort Sumner to negotiate a new treaty with the Navajo leaders. Finally, the Navajo were allowed to return to their original homelands.

Now there was no need to continue Fort Sumner as a military post, and the garrison was reduced to one company. On August 30, 1869, Fort Sumner was abandoned and all government property was removed or sold to wealthy rancher and cattle baron Lucien Maxwell, who rebuilt the Officer's Quarters into a 20-room house. At the time of his death, Maxwell had a thriving agricultural and ranching enterprise that included 9,000 head of cattle and 17,000 sheep at Fort Sumner. His wife and son would continue his successful operations, as well as establish a homestead outside the fort with businesses, a post office, and a church. The town of Fort Sumner was born.

But Fort Sumner has another place in history. In 1876 through 1878, what became known as the Lincoln County War was taking place in Lincoln, New Mexico, about 100 miles south of Fort Sumner. One of the participants in that war was the infamous Billy the Kid, who was finally captured by Lincoln County Sheriff Pat Garrett. Billy was tried and sentenced to hang for murder, but in April 1881, he broke out of jail, killing two deputies in the process.

Before he had been captured by Garrett, Billy spent a lot of time around Fort Sumner and had become friends with Pete Maxwell, Lucien Maxwell's son, who now lived in the large house that his father had made from the remodeled Fort Sumner officer's quarters. After his escape in Lincoln, Billy returned to Fort Sumner and was staying at the Maxwell house. Garrett got word that Billy might be in Fort Sumner, so on July 14, 1881, he and two deputies rode into town, arriving at Maxwell's house after dark. There are a number of versions of what happened next, but most historians agree that when Billy went to the kitchen to get something to eat, Garrett saw him cross the yard. Garrett then waited in the dark room for Billy to return. Billy, realizing there was someone there, asked twice, "Quien es?" which is Spanish for "Who is it?" Garrett fired twice, hitting Billy just above the heart and killing him almost instantly.

Yes, Fort Sumner has been an important part of Western history.

Westerners International
Home Ranch
c/o Panhandle Plains Historical Museum
2503 4th Avenue
Canyon, Texas 79015



Message from your “*Ink slinger*”, Kenneth Pirtle

Palo Duro Corral, Amarillo, TX

Apologies to all Corrals, Posses and individuals who have sent information or photographs regarding their recent activities and did not get it included in this edition of Buckskin Bulletin. During this transfer time between Oklahoma City and Canyon Texas our mail service has not been re-established. Any phone messages or emails since mid December have not been received. The previous HR email (wihomeranch@gmail.com) should work although we cannot access those as of this writing. We also do not yet have our phone service. Our Home Ranch office is not yet operational. We hope to be set up with communications humming within a few weeks, perhaps by the time you receive this newsletter. Thanks for your patience.

Remember that you can view the Buckskin Bulletin on-line at <http://westerners-international.org/bulletin.shtml>

SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Those associated with the proposal to bring the Westerner Home Ranch want to pass along a hearty “thank you” to the Oklahoma Home Ranch folks who have, for almost 3 decades, run a great operation. These same OKC Westerners made the transfer simple and smooth for the HR folks in Texas. The OKC mover-helpers were Don Reeves, Mary Marvel, Fred Marvel, Kent McInnis, & Cheryl McInnis. Also “thanks” to the staff of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, especially Doug Lane (NCWHM Operations Director) and his staff for their moving assistance. And lastly, a special “thank you” to Fred Marvel for his great photographs that documented this historic change in locations for Westerners, International.



<http://westerners-international.org/home-ranch.shtml>

Don't forget to check the Westerners International web site from time to time. You will find up to date information about Westerner activities, upcoming Board meetings and Corral news.