

# Buckskin Bulletin

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NEWSLETTER OF WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL  
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ISSUE 1, 2011

## Living Legend # 55

# John Creech Named to Legend List

Members of the **San Dimas Corral** in San Dimas, California, have nominated member and artist **John Creech**, to be included on the Westerners International Living Legend List.

Says the group, Creech has painted 40 years worth of sprawling landscapes, desert panoramas and signs of progress that have come and gone. He follows the tradition of renowned regional artists such as Phil Dyke and Millard Sheets who celebrated the beauty of the Southwest in the *plein air* (outdoors in natural light) style. Creech is recognized as one of the great watercolorists living today.

In 1948 Creech's grandmother moved to his family's Arkansas farmhouse. John was then 11, the eldest of six children in a home occupied by nine people. Her look—an old woman lost in her past amidst the chaos around her, inspired an early series of paintings

titled "Looking for Mary Elizabeth."

She shared stories of bushwhackers and Indians along the Cherokee Trail, Frank and Jesse James as if they were part of the family, maps to hidden mines and cooking at a boarding house for cowboys as her Baptist preacher father traveled from town to town.

Even now, when John visits the Capitan and Lincoln (New Mexico) areas where his grandmother grew up, he imagines her life along dusty roads and among adobe buildings that housed the likes of Billy the Kid, Kit Carson and Black Jack Pershing.

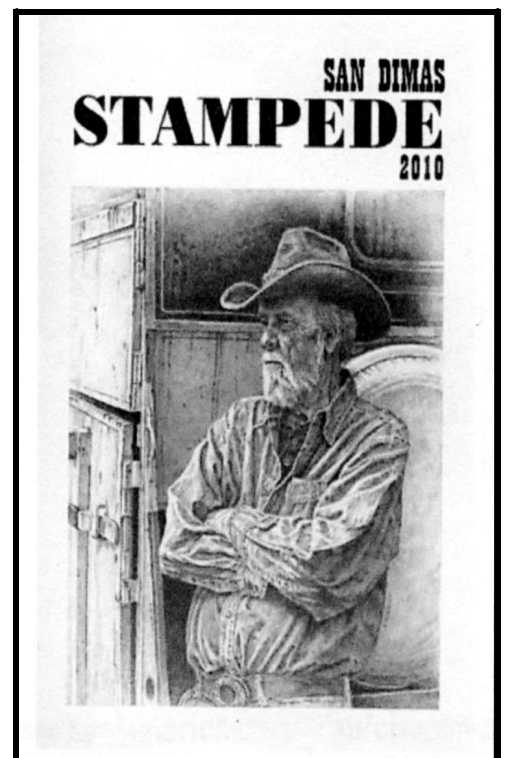
Her influence during those last few years of her life kindled his desire to paint images of both the Midwest and the Southwest. His prodigious talent was soon noticed by local art critics, which culminated in a scholarship to the prestigious Kansas City Art Institute, and later at the Art Center College

of Design in Los Angeles.

Along the trail, John has worked as a cattle wrangler, ditch digger, carpenter, welder, mason, mechanic, equipment designer and furniture manufacturer. For 20 years John owned a manufacturing company that made curved wood parts for the furniture industry. He designed and built all the molds and presses himself.

John also has restored automobiles and he currently rolls in his exquisitely restored 1947 Ford. Throughout all these experiences—from time with his grand-

*(Continued on Page 3)*



Shown are two of the works of John Creech. At left is his painting entitled "Fortress." Above is a portrait of corral member Wilson "Wild Bill" Stone.



# From the WI Chairman

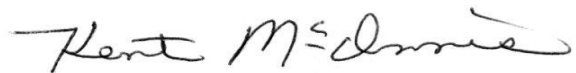
Sometimes, as settlers of the West discovered, opportunity comes when least expected and most needed. It reminds me of our **Fred Olds Cowboy Poetry Award**. Fred Olds was a gifted artist traveling to California to join Walt Disney, when his car broke down in Oklahoma. He never left. Opportunity fell in his lap. So it has with **Westerners International**. Since the move of our **WI Home Ranch** to the **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum**, we enjoy the generous hospitality of this great institution. They allow us the luxury to store our archives here. At some point, archives, valuable as they are, can become an obstacle. Any Westerner who visits our Home Ranch can see the cramped quarters we created after 20 years of collecting our history.

**Gerrienne Schaad, Director of Dickinson Research Center** here at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, came by to introduce herself late last year. Her curiosity about Westerners became our "Fred Olds" moment. Gerri's job in part is to collect the archives of significant institutions. The Dickinson Research Center will offer all Westerners corrals and possess an opportunity to catalog, to preserve, and to offer research assistance for all archives within the Westerners organization. The Home Ranch is only the first step. Gerri stated,

*"The records will be important for the future in several ways, including as a history source for your organization, genealogical information for the relatives of your members (photographs, addresses, biographical information), and a historical look at organizations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to name a few.*

*"The transfer would entail two issues, the legal transfer of records with the Deed of Gift and the physical transfer, which can be handled at your convenience and with the help of my staff. We will physically organize the records, place them in archivally sound folders and boxes, and broadly describe the contents in what we refer to as a finding aid. This finding aid will then be made available electronically to the world. (See examples at: <http://www.nationalcowboymuseum.org/research/cms/FindingAids/tabid/69/Default.aspx>) I offer this service to your organization for free, with the proviso that the materials are available to the public and not restricted unless there are issues of confidentiality or copyright."*

Your Westerners **Executive Committee** found this to be an excellent opportunity to better preserve our treasured heritage, while allowing us to do what we do best – supporting the work of our scores of Westerners chapters throughout the world. I encourage each posse and corral to consider donating its own archives to the Dickinson Research Center, as part of the greater collection of Westerners International. It will be safely kept in a world-class museum for all to see and utilize. Come see it yourself.



## A Few Brief Notes from the Editor

Several weeks ago we received a letter at the Home Ranch with a special request which is a very good idea. **Mary D. Thompson** of the **Dakota Midlands Corral** had noticed we didn't always list where a Corral or Posse was located, leaving her curious about the location of a group which did not name the town as part of the Group's title.

"There was an item about our Dakota Midlands Corral, but no mention that it is in Aberdeen, S.D. It mentions S.D., but there are others corrals in S.D. We do

not know by the name of the corral where it is located and I think that would be of interest to other readers," she said.

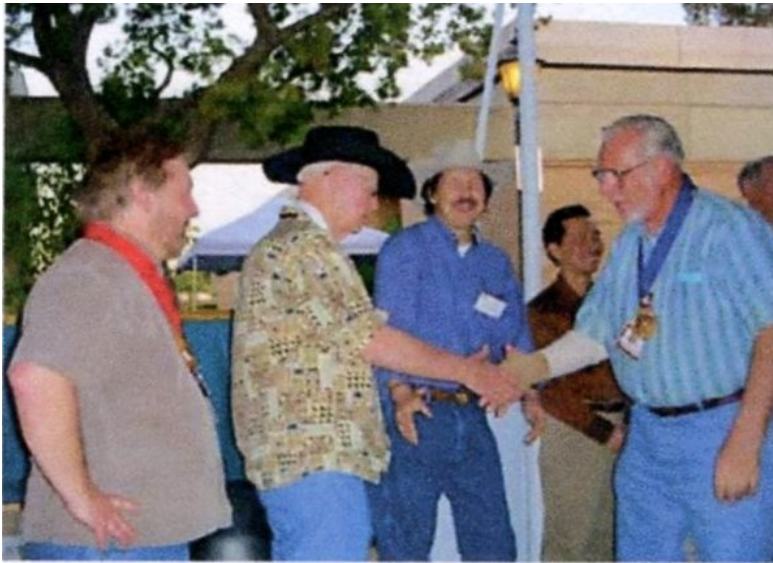
Mary makes a very good point. Many Corral names give no hint at all as to location and probably do leave the reader wondering. So from now on we will do our best to try and remember to include the location of each group mentioned.

Are there any other requests or ideas? If you keep it a secret we can't correct what needs to be corrected. 2

The flip side of this problem is occasionally we receive meeting notices at the Home Ranch that do not name the group sending it—just information that "The Corral will meet etc. etc. etc." or "A reminder that we will be meeting next Tuesday at etc. etc. etc." This does not happen often but it does happen leaving us looking for clues that will tell us who you are and where you are located.







Creech receives Best in Show at San Dimas Festival of Western Art.

## WI Legend Named

mother to designing furniture—John’s art has been chronicling events and experiences.

Among the awards Creech has received are the Paint America Top 100 in Topeka, Kansas; Top 100 of the National Arts for the Parks in Washington, D.C. and gold medal “Best in Show” and Festival Choice awards at the Festival of Western Art in San Dimas.

An active member of the San Dimas Corral, Creech has art displayed in a number of galleries in California including Tirage in Pasadena, Old House in Orange, Balboa Bay Club, Newport Beach; Pasadena Museum of California Art, Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels, Los Angeles, and Frederick R. Weisman Museum of California Art at Pepperdine University, Malibu.

## El Paso Corral Sets Special Program List



Deen and Hamilton Underwood with the books they have written, above. Below is the grave of John Wesley Hardin at Concordia Cemetery in El Paso.

“In preparation for the upcoming anniversary of the Mexican Revolution, we have had some interesting programs,” wrote **Deen Underwood**, Sheriff of the **El Paso Corral**.

Among those programs are “Women of the Mexican Revolution” by Patricia Kidney; “Dr. J.D. Love—Pioneer Doctor” by Dale Owen; “American Smelting and Refining Co at El Paso” (where Pancho Villa Worked for a short time) given by author Hamilton Underwood; “Pancho Villa in El Paso,” by Ret. General William Riley; “Customs and Costumes of Mexico” by Petra Rosales.

Also “The Law West of the Pecos—Judge Roy Bean” by Ken Smith; “A Walk Through Concordia Cemetery” by authors of the book Hamilton and Deen Underwood, where John Wesley Hardin, Sheriffs, Texas Rangers and outlaws are buried; “Billy the Kid Breaks into the San Elizario Jail” by Vince Sanchez and “The Last Legitimate Hanging in El Paso” by Albert Burnham.

About this last program, “Geronimo Parra was hanged for the murder of Texas Ranger Fusselman. The rope slipped and Parra had to be hanged twice,” explained Sheriff Hamilton.

A set of programs that would be of interest to any Westerner.





# Llano Estacado Corral Enjoys Annual Banquet

By Sarah McKee

The **Llano Estacado Corral**, Lubbock, Texas, had our annual banquet January 18. Dr. Kenneth Davis introduced **Judge Tom Crum** from Granbury, Texas, as our main speaker. His topic was "IS OUR COLLECTIVE MEMORY FOLKLORE OR HISTORY." Judge Crum said that "if the sources of our knowledge of historical events are those shared by most of our fellow citizens, then our and their remembrance of these events will form what historians refer to as collective memory." Both historians and folklorists are in this group of Westerners. Tom was able to identify the folklorists because "they look smug and content." They know that it is impossible for them to make a mistake. If someone ever accused a folklorist of making a mistake, all the folklorist has to say is "that's the way I heard it." Folklorists are concerned that it makes a good story.

Judge Crum gave a delightful, witty and entertaining talk that was well received by the 44 members and guests who attended.

Appreciation was expressed to **Dr. Robert Carr** for his long service as Keeper of the Chips without losing a single chip and to **Cindy Martin** as longtime "Rep."

Also we had in attendance Janet Simonds from the Texas Folklore Society in Nacogdoches and Dr. Barbara Hahn, Assistant Professor in the History Department at Texas Tech University, and Dr. Barbara Brannan from the Texas Tech University Press.

Judge Crum and Dr. Paul Carlson have just released their book Myth, Memory and Massa-



Pictured above are Ellen Carlson, Dr. Paul Carlson, Judge Tom Crum and Mary Crum. Below, co-authors Judge Crum, left, and Dr. Carlson sit at the autograph table, prepared to sign their book.



cre: The Pease River Capture of Cynthia Ann Parker.

(Lubbock, Texas: Texas Tech University Press.) Judge Crum and Dr. Paul Carlson have pub-

lished many books and articles on Western American History. They autographed copies of this new book at the meeting held at the Lubbock Women's Club.

## Last Chance Gulch Corral Hears Speaker

Members of the **Last Chance Gulch Corral**, Helena, Montana, met in February for dinner and to hear a program by Ellen Baumler. She talked about her recently published book, "Montana Moments...History on the Go." Members were asked to provide e-mail addresses to save on postage costs. Many corrals are moving toward sending meeting notices by e-mail.

**By Richard Dillon**

From the **Arthur H. Clark Company** comes a contribution to the growing field of Latter Day Saints history. **Mormon Convert, Mormon Defector** by **Polly Aird** ((\$39.95) is subtitled "A Scottish Immigrant in the American West, 1848-1861." The story of this particular "Saint" is that he became an apostate, a Jack Mormon. Peter McAuslan imagined Zion to be a Promised Land. It was an oasis in a desert, though punished by drouth and locust invasions. But it was not these factors that drove the convert from Salt Lake City and Mormonism; it was the Mormon Reformation's edicts, voiced by an authoritarian Brigham Young.

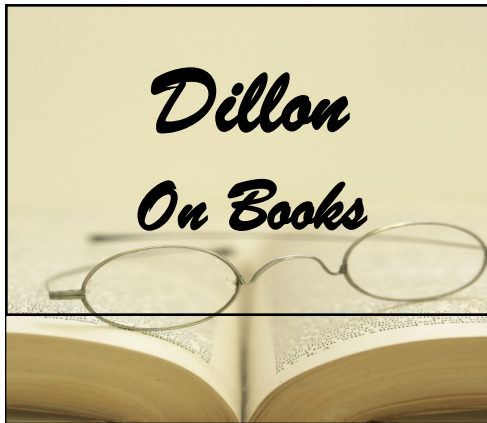
Young demanded complete obedience to the Church and allowed a climate of violence (even murder) to fester, culminating in the atrocity of the Mountain Meadows Massacre.

Fearing for their safety, McAuslan and others disaffected (ex)Mormons asked for protection. They got it from the U.S. Army which escorted them to safety, as far as Winnemucca, Nevada, on the road to California. There the one-time Scots convert continued on to become a Sacramento Valley farmer.

\*\*\*\*\*

Among the least-known bands of Apaches, though not as neglected as the Tontos ("Fools"), are the Lipans of Texas. They have long needed a chronicler. Prior to the rise of the "imperial" Comanches, they were the main threat to Hispanic Texas. Anglo-Texans wore the tribe down and, eventually, its survivors had to merge with the Mescalero Apaches and even the Tonkawas.

But first, the Lipans became dependable scouts and auxiliaries to the Texans in Comancheria, much like the



"Tonks," under such chiefs as Flaco and Castro.

**Thomas Britten's** book, **The Lipan Apaches** (**University of New Mexico Press**, \$34.95), rescues these interesting, but forgotten, Texans from general neglect. They had a culture all their own, one which Britten carefully examines.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Road to Mount Lemmon**, by **Mary Ellen Barnes** (**University of Arizona Press**, \$17.95) showcases very local history. It is the story of little Summerhaven on Mount Lemmon in Arizona's Santa Catalina Range. It is also quite recent history, for Tony Zimmerman did not pioneer Summerhaven till the 1940's. The history of the place is very much the history, and biography, of Tony and his family.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Teaching About Place: Learning From the Land**, edited by **Laird Christensen** and **Hal Cremmel** (**University of Nevada Press**, \$24.95), notes how restless are Americans. How so many have difficulty in finding their real place, their home, no matter where they were born. But more and more of us yearn for a base, a "sense of place" in some specific part of the environment.

This book, aimed more at teachers than the general public, attempts to inspire them to investigate "place" in order to offset the continuing neglect of

the subject in higher education.

The collection of essays, mostly descriptions of fieldtrips, incorporates the sense of place in the environment, in nature; even recognition of place in such urban settings as Houston.

In recognizing the geographical detachment that many young Americans feel, the chapters focus on close inspection of certain localities, including the San Gabriel Mountains in California and the Buffalo Bayou country in Texas, in order to rediscover our relationship with the land.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Robert C. Pavlik's Norman Clyde: Legendary Mountaineer of California's Sierra Nevada** (**Heyday Books**, \$14) is the first

biography of the individual often characterized as another John Muir, but discounted by others as merely a mountain climber, albeit a prodigious one.

A real "character," Norman Clyde was a cantankerous curmudgeon whose irritability was abrasive. His angry style camouflaged the fact that, like Muir, he was an intellectual, a naturalist and a writer as well as an alpinist.

Norman Clyde came to know the Sierra Nevada better than anyone since John Muir. He was the first man to climb 130 peaks and was proud of his knowledge of mountain flora and fauna. Unfortunately, his anti-social nature caused people to downgrade his importance to the history of the Sierra.


**PICTURES WANTED**

Don't forget your camera when your corral or posse has a special event. We like pictures to put in our bulletins or our web page.

Westerners International  
1700 NE 63rd Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111



# Fort Smith Conference Planned in July



**ON THE BORDER**  
Celebrating Fifty Years of Telling the Story  
Fort Smith, Arkansas  
July 1-3, 2011

Speakers: Art Burton, Dee Cordry, Bob Ernst, Mike Tower, Catherine Foreman-Gray, Dave Turk & Angela Walton-Raji  
Tours of Historical Places, Food and Special Events  
Co-Sponsored by Fort Smith Corral, Westerners International and the Fort Smith National Historic Site

TO JOIN OUR MAILING LIST FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS CONFERENCE, PLEASE SEND YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL AND ORGANIZATION TO  
Gritconference@gmail.com or  
call Fort Smith National Historic Site, 479-783-3961

The **Fort Smith Corral**, home Corral of Westerners International President, **David Carter**, is joining with the Fort Smith National Historic Site July 1 through 3 in a special event celebrating the site's 50th anniversary. Though thought of by many simply as the location of Hanging Judge Isaac C. Parker's court, the Fort Smith Historic Site has much more than stories of the outlaws and U.S. Deputy Marshal's of the Western District of Arkansas to offer. Here you can learn some military history and see remnants of two historic forts; find out more about the Indian Removals, known as the Trail of Tears, into Indian Territory, present-day Oklahoma and be introduced to other regional history. Best of all, though, you can enjoy the warmth and hospitality of our Fort Smith Westerners and the staff and other volunteers at the historic site. The setting is special, too, located along the east bank of the Arkansas River separating the states of Arkansas and Oklahoma. As any Westerner who attended another event a few years ago, hosted by this corral, will attest—they really know how to throw a party so a good time is assured. To find out more you can check out this internet site: <http://www.nps.gov/fosm/index.htm> or telephone to get on a mailing list, 479-783-3961 or e-mail [gritconference@gmail.com](mailto:gritconference@gmail.com) **David Carter** and his wife, **Shirley**, are looking forward to seeing as many Westerners as possible in Arkansas in July.

## John E. Boessenecker Receives Honor

**John E. Boessenecker** of the **San Francisco Corral** has sent some information about his recent achievement.

"My book, *Bandido: The Life and Times of Tiburcio Vasquez*, released September 1, sold out the first printing two weeks before Christmas," he said.

"It has been nominated for various awards. *True West* magazine just named me Best Nonfiction

### Durango Corral

Members of the **Durango Corral** met in February at the historic Strater Hotel for dinner to hear a program by **Bud Davis** titled "The Golden Egg that Laid the Goose: Otto Mears and the Rio Grande South-ern."

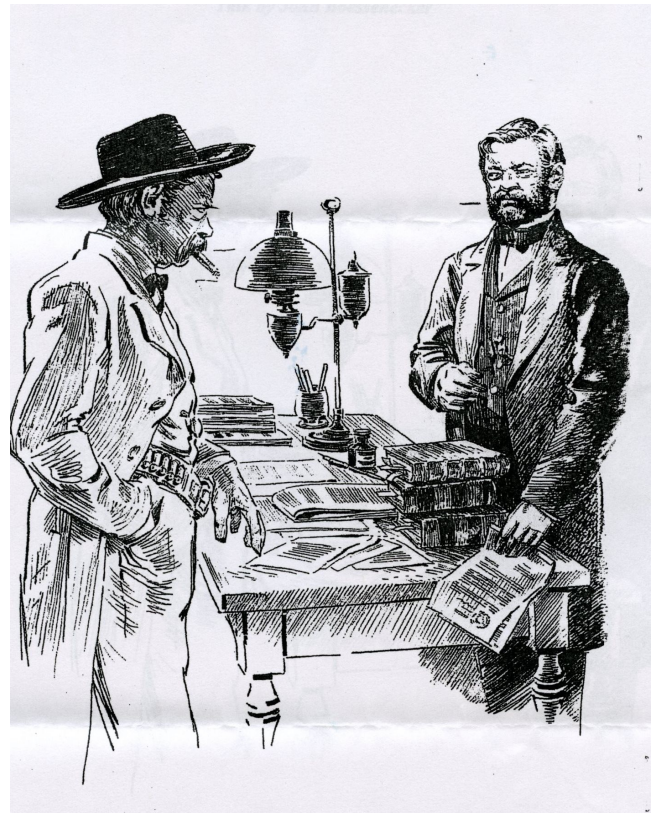
This group meets four times a year.

Writer for 2011 which was very flattering, to say the least," he added.

In December he gave a talk to the joint meeting of the corral and the California Historical Society about the book, published by the University of Oklahoma Press. The book is a "comprehensive biography of the legendary Hispanic outlaw who blazed his trail with violence, asking no quarter from the land hungry new Americanos."

"I thought readers would be interested in the accompanying illustration used at the December meeting," he said. Boessenecker thought it hilarious and we agree so with permission it is included.

If other Westerners have news to tell us please do not keep it a secret. We are always glad to share your good news with fellow Westerners.



Stranger: "I read a lot and saw the movie "Valdez is coming" and I never heard of this Tabasco fella."

John B.: "Tiburcia! You idiot! Don't you know your California history? I have a special \$2 Dick & Jane edition just for you."

# Trailing The West

Shebby Lee Tours has planned another round of interesting trips which should be of interest to many Westerners wanting to get out and see some of the places they have only read about or seen in the movies or on television.

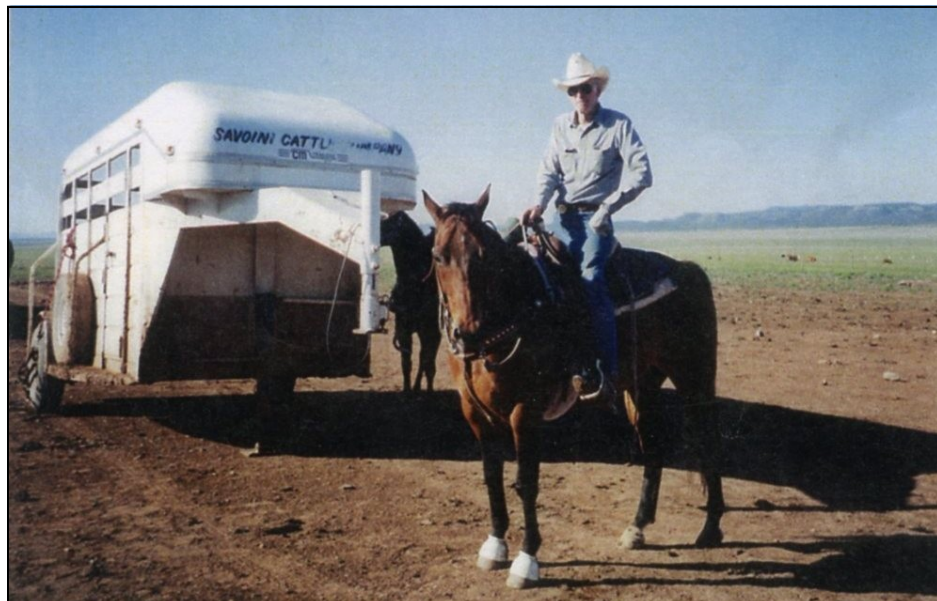
**June 18-24 "Old West Trail"** tour will be an opportunity to explore the West where legends live visiting the site of "Custer's Last Stand," a stroll along the storied streets of Deadwood Gulch, once inhabited by Calamity Jane, Wild Bill Hickock and Poker Alice, as awe-inspiring mountain carvings and a walk on the actual Oregon Trail in wagon ruts which have survived more than a century. Begins and ends in Denver.

**August 5 -20** will be a return of the popular **Lewis & Clark Trail Tour** begins in St. Louis and mirrors the westward journey of the Corps of Discovery, ending in Portland, Oregon. This tour includes special activities not available to the general public.

**September 7-11 the Cherokee Nation Culture Tour** is slated. Northeastern Oklahoma is the focus. Learn about the Trail of Tears and how the tribe overcame adversity in their efforts to comply with the wishes of the federal government and become good citizens. Explore tribal history, their role in the Civil War and meet luminaries of the tribe such as Sequoyah, who invented a unique syllabary of their own language, and Will Rogers. Begins and ends in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

For more information contact Shebby Lee Tours at 800-888-8306, or at the official website: [www.shebbleetours.com](http://www.shebbleetours.com).

Shebby Lee is now on **Facebook**, for those interested. How many of you know that she is a long-time member of the **Black Hills Corral**.



## A Program Opportunity

Veterinarian **Dr. J.L. Briggs**, seen above, Chino Valley, AZ, and member of the **Prescott Corral**, is looking for Corrals in the Southwest who might be interested in a Power Point presentation titled "The Spring Works 1905-2005" which he would like to share.

"The talk describes the step by step round-up of the cattle and branding of the calves on a mountain range in 1905 and compares it to the same operation in 2005," Joe explains.

"My qualifications for this talk stem from my good fortune in becoming the confidant of three old timers who told me their stories of running the wagons, the trail herds and ranching in the 1890s," he added.

Another qualification is his winning the Third Place award in the WI 2009 Philip A. Danielson award category for Best Programs.

Briggs thinks he may be one of the few remaining men who rode with the wagon and pack horse outfits in the 40s and continued with the pick-up and trailer round ups of today.

"My several presentations of this topic to people interested in authentic tales of the cowboy life seem to have been well received and I am interested in continuing to give these programs," he says.

He may be contacted by phone, 928-636-2677 or by mail by anyone interested in such a program. His address is Dr. J.L. Briggs, 2460 Kachina Ln., Chino Valley, AZ 86323.

### **BUCKSKIN BULLETIN**

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[WIHomeRanch@gmail.com](mailto:WIHomeRanch@gmail.com)  
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### **WI Home Ranch Bunch**

Kent McInnis, David Carter, Don Reeves, John Marshall, Leon Nelson, Bill Deupree, Mary Marvel, Cheryl McInnis, Noel Kruger, Shirley Carter, Fred Marvel, Jim Argo, John & Melvena Heisch, Dennis & Sandra Noble, Jerry Burson, Ed Kelsay, Rodney Goddard, Burris Argo.

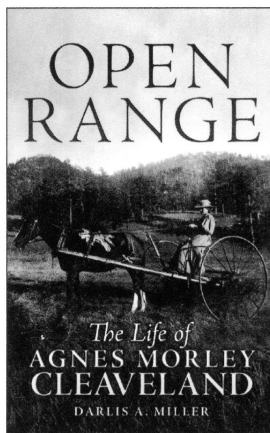


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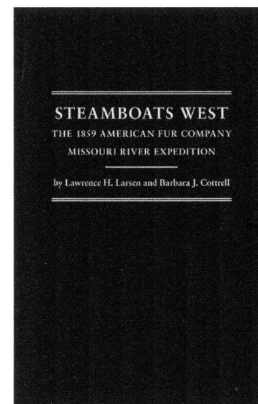
## OPEN RANGE

The Life of Agnes Morley Cleaveland

By Darlis A. Miller

\$24.95 HARDCOVER · 192 PAGES · 19 B&W ILLUS.

Agnes Morley Cleaveland found lasting fame after publishing her memoir, *No Life for a Lady*, in 1941. Her account of growing up on a cattle ranch in west-central New Mexico captivated readers from coast to coast. In her book, Cleaveland memorably portrayed herself and other ranch women as capable workers and independent thinkers. Her life, however, was not limited to the ranch. In *Open Range*, Miller shows how a young girl who was a fearless risk-taker grew up to be a prolific author and well-known social activist.



## STEAMBOATS WEST

The 1859 American Fur Company Missouri River Expedition

By Lawrence H. Larsen and Barbara J. Cottrell

\$34.95 HARDCOVER · 256 PAGES · 20 B&W ILLUS.

In 1859, the American Fur Company set out on what would then be the longest steamboat trip in North American history—a headline-making, 6,200-mile trek along the Missouri River from St. Louis to Fort Benton in present-day Montana, and back again. *Steamboats West* is an adventure story that navigates the rocky rapids of the upper Missouri to offer a fascinating account of travel to the raw frontier past the pale of settlement. It was a venture that extended trade deep into the Northwest and made an enormous stride in transportation.

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