

Buckskin Bulletin

VOL. XLV

NEWSLETTER OF WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL
www.westerners-international.org

ISSUE 2, 2012



Prof. Eliza A. Thomas explains phrenology to Craig Neumeister

Phrenologist Gives Corral Program

"I see by your head":

In the Old West you could tell a lot about a person by the hat they wore. Some said they could take that a lot further by feeling the lumps and bumps on a person's head. This process is called phrenology.

Members of the **Dakotah Corral**, Sioux Falls, SD, were given an in-depth explanation of the process by Prof. Eliza A. Thomas (aka **Miss Jessie Nesseim**) at a recent meeting. Professor Thomas sells her "Elixir of Life" and is a skilled phrenologist. The program included reading the head of Corral Sheriff **Craig Neumeister**. The reading proved very interesting as Prof. Thomas related the lumps and bumps to his personality traits. As the Sheriff's head was read his face was also red, reported Deputy Sheriff **Bill Pattison**.

To round out the evening Prof. Thomas included the practices of the patent medicines that were unregulated and widely available in the Old West. The so-called medicines were made up of many unregulated substances from tar and kerosene to some unidentifiable ingredients, usually mixed with generous portions of alcohol. This portion of the evening didn't involve any audience participation, reported Pattison.

A Little WI History —Part II

(Continued from Issue I, 2012)
(Editor's Note: Those new to WI may not know that 'in the beginning' the Posses and Corrals were all male in membership, though a few all-female corrals also existed. This is Part II of one woman's quest to become a member of the Stockton, CA, Corral.)

By Ms Daryl Morrison

It occurred to me that with a name like "Daryl" I could send in my check, let them accept me for membership and then appear on the scene. Then watch the club squirm as they had to disinvite me and then I could indicate "my attorney would be in touch." But this was only fantasy because, for one—I am not confrontational, and two—I did not want to join a group that would be made to feel uncomfortable because of my presence. But these thoughts did cross my mind.

I should say I do know the value of women's and men's groups. I have been in Girl Scouts, women's book clubs and women's support groups. I know there is a wonderful camaraderie in those kinds of groups. So why would I feel strongly about joining the Westerners?

Well, working in a career in Western History and being new to the area, I was interested in learning more about Stockton and the state of California. Also, the group likely had collectors that I would want to meet for advice on
(Continued on Page 4)

The Chairman—Kent McInnis

Years ago it was the membership of **Indian Territory Posse** of Oklahoma Westerners who put in the time and energy to bring the Westerners Home Ranch to Oklahoma City. Formed on April 6, 1962, the Posse celebrated their 50th anniversary in ceremonies this June. With Sheriff **Rodney Goddard** (WI's new president) as master of ceremonies, all past sheriffs present came to the stage to briefly relate their recollections of their time in leadership.

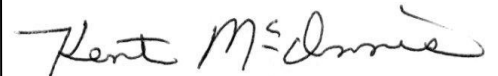
Without exception the stories

revolved around, not things or events, but people who made a difference in their time as Westerners. There were tales of mentors. There were memories of founders. Laughter filled the hall. The joy was in the trials, the foibles and the personalities of so many members past and present which brought us to this day a half century later. The pride came from the notable members who made a difference, but may have since ridden into the sunset. Whether they were historians or

journalists, professors or historical figures, authors or artists, it was a person that made being a Westerner worth the tale. We are the history of tomorrow.

I received an e-mail from the new sheriff of the **English Westerners Society** at the same time as the above mentioned ceremony. Sheriff **Francis Taunton** asked about our **Buckskin Bulletin**, expecting it to be a scholarly journal, which it is not. The *Bulletin's* purpose is to be a vehicle that binds the people of the Westerners family together—to keep the people in each posse or corral aware of what we do both as groups and as individuals.

The English Westerners Society publishes extensively. Hopefully, that is what the *Buckskin Bulletin* can encourage all posses and corrals to do as well. The Home Ranch is not the brains of The Westerners. It is the individual contributions of you as members and you as corrals and posses that make this organization a success. We, The Home Ranch, are only here to report the facts and encourage your continued scholarship. Your jobs are to take pride in your unique organization, have fun being a Westerner and share the laughter, as you ride off toward the Western Sunset.



The Editor—Burnis Argo

Summer is the time at the **Home Ranch** when we can take a bit of a breather as most of our member groups do not meet during some summer months. This gives the Home Ranch Bunch an opportunity to catch up on a few things put off during the busy fall-winter-spring.

We are still busy getting files sorted out from the big office move of last October. Since many of our older files either have been or are going to the **Dickinson Center** here at the **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum**, we were able to downsize from three 4-drawer filing cabinets to two. This means, of course, some re-arranging as we pull items out to put in boxes for the curators at the center to prepare for the WI archives and find other, more recent, items to keep in the cabinets, handy for our use.

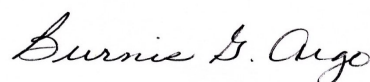
The summer is also a time to catch up the mailing list, going through and making corrections using the lists sent in during the spring by various corrals and posses.

A big job still to do is getting the **WI Library** straightened up and the computer list of our holdings up-to-date. Working with the books always presents a prob-

lem—there are so many interesting things to read it is difficult to keep to the task of sorting and straightening. And just a reminder—our library is for books, pamphlets, monographs written by Westerners and we are always ready to accept such donations from our members.

We are fortunate to have some great volunteers to help us with the library—**Sandra and Dennis Noble** who have been checking and double-checking every publication against our old library list and adding the many, many things not on it. Also we have **John Heisch**, a retired librarian, who is going to be getting the list updated in proper form on computer. Due to the confusion and work caused by the office move they have been unable to proceed with their work but will be back at it soon.

At the end of July the judges for our annual **WI Awards Program** will be turning in their sheets and when the results are known we will be notifying the winners and the fall bulletin will carry their names for all to see.



Corral Meeting Held

Huntington Westerners met in June to hear the talk, "The Los Angeles Plaza: Sacred and Contested Space." Speaker was **William David Estrada**, author of a book by the same title which traces the history of this popular tourist spot in the heart of historic Los Angeles from its indigenous and colonial origins to the present day. Newspaper articles, diaries, letters and personal interviews were all used to tell the story.



Roundup

When warm weather arrives many of our corrals and posses leave their "winter quarters" and head out on new adventures.

Fort Abraham Lincoln Corral, Bismarck-Mandan, ND, took a road trip in June. They met at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, Washburn, to tour the center as well as Ft. Mandan. They ended the day with dinner at Dakota Farms.



Pine Ridge Corral, Chadron, NE, motored to the home of John & Janice Dagen for a dinner, meat and beverage provided by the corral, members bringing a salad or dessert. The program, given by Jim O'Rourke, was on sheep wagons.



The Spring Buffalo Barbecue of the **John G. Neihardt Corral**, Columbia, MO, was held in June at the home of **Jim and Phyllis Boillot**. The corral furnished the buffaloburgers, buns, sauce and drinks. Members brought a covered-dish each.



Chisholm Trail Corral, Oklahoma City, held its Chuckwagon Cookout in May at the home of Vi and Will Jones. Cooking dinner were corral members **Susan and Trammel Rushing**, award-winning Chuckwagon Chefs.



Kansas Corral members met in Wamego for lunch followed by a trip to visit historic spots in northern Pottawatomie County, many connected to the Oregon Trail.



This view of the Colorado State Capitol in Denver is a reminder that the Western History Association meeting this October 4-7 is going to be held at the Grand Hyatt Denver. The WI Awards will be presented to the winners at a breakfast October 7. (Photo by John Argo)

Corral Shares Programs

Carol Sides of the **Jedediah Smith Corral**, Hot Springs, SD, has sent in abstracts of three interesting programs presented at corral meetings this year.

In March they heard a talk by **Lilah Pengra** on Brazeau dit Caioua, a.k.a. John Brazeau, spy for General Harney and member of the Famous 100. A fur trader, he came to the Black Hills with General Harney as a spy and teamster. He had many ties to SD. His father built Fort Brazeau and his daughter Nettie Goings' husband was the first Marshall of Indian Police on Pine Ridge Reservation.

The group heard a meeting different from most of the ones they have in February. **Mary Ellen Duennerman**, corral member, spoke of her experience as a young rationing agent during WW II on the Pine Ridge Reservation, then as a member of the Foreign Services in Romania. On the trip to Romania, which took several days, she was the only

woman on board the military transport plane and was given the most comfortable seat—atop the duffle bags where she could stretch out and sleep.

In April **Lynn Johns**, elementary school teacher and park ranger at Scottsbluff National Monument in the summer, was the speaker. Her subject was Phoebe Terwilliger, a 22 year old woman who, two days after her marriage, was on her way to California by wagon and oxen team. Every day she wrote in her journal at the request of her father. Among the things she mentioned was traveling 200 miles using buffalo chips; wanting to be at Independence Rock by the 4th of July and that the trip was 2,111 miles. She noted 194 people died on the trail.

What kind of interesting programs has your group had recently. Perhaps sharing some of them will give others ideas for programs for their corral or posse.

Some WI History — Part II

(Continued from Page 1)

building the **Holt-Atherton Center for Western Studies** book collection and to make connections with possible donors. For me, it felt as if I was being put at a disadvantage professionally for being a woman.

Outside of starting a women's group, which I didn't really believe in, my only option was to drive up to **Sacramento** to the corral there that included women. This didn't get me the Stockton history I wanted to hear but there was an active, interesting membership.

I did this for several years but with a full-time job and small children, it was difficult to make the evening meetings and I eventually gave up.

One memorable Sacramento meeting, however, was a visit to the **Michael Harrison** home with his Western Americana collection of over 21,000 volumes. The house was built as a "library with living quarters" to accommodate the collection and visiting researchers. Little did I know that some 15 years later I would be at **University of California**, Davis Special Collections and would move that collection from the home into the university library. The Harrison collection, with its set of **Edward S. Curtis** *North American Indians* volumes, western art and sculptures, was to bring me into close connection with another remarkable western history collection.

I have told you what it was like for me to try to get into the **Stockton Corral** of Westerners. To have a better understanding of what was going on in the Corral itself, during those times, I called several members including **Gordon Martin**, **Bart Bird** and **Bill Hathorn**. I also spoke with **Gracelyn Martin**, who for many years was the Operations Secre-

tary of the Westerners. I thank them for their responses to my phone calls. I also did some research at the Holt-Atherton Special Collections where the Westerners Archives are deposited.

Women had been participating in Westerner meetings as guests from the very beginning of the organization. They were invited especially to the Buffalo Feed, the installment meeting, the awards meeting and special outings.

Discussions about admitting women members had occurred over the years. Bird shared that his father had passed away and his mother no longer had the opportunity to attend. As I came in to California in 1985, and made inquiries, I don't know if my interest had spurred some of these discussions again.

The Corral had been limited to 49 members, but the membership had been dropping and many of the members had been tapped for officer positions. It was getting harder and harder to fill positions and to bring in new members. Meanwhile women were expressing interest. However, several outspoken members threatened to leave the club if women were admitted. There was some overlap in the membership with other groups that did not permit women including **E Clampus Vitus**.

Sheriff Hathorn had always been in favor of allowing women and was overcome with surprise when he was "blasted" by several members. As many of the men wanted to open the membership to women, a conciliatory statement was drafted in 1985 indicating that women would not be accepted but that if another corral (for both men and women) wanted to form, the Stockton Corral would turn over a percentage of funds based on the number of their members that left the organization to help a new group get

established. Sheriff Hathorn signed the document.

The reasons about a half dozen members objected to women ranged from "citing tradition," to wanting a boys night out and the camaraderie of a men's organization. Behind these statements lay the more likely need to drink freely, do a little carousing, tell some colorful jokes and get away from their wives for a night. Several members were reportedly heavy drinkers and they didn't want their wives to know how much they were drinking. The "old boys club" was certainly in effect. Although some outings had the wives come along, at other times the men went out for a weekend to Murphys or Sonora. A story was shared with me that one member had stripped down and jumped into a cold creek. We can only imagine some drink might have been involved there.

By the late 1980s it was becoming clear that if the club was to remain viable and draw in new members, the organization should open to women. Some members most vocal against women becoming members had become inactive and were no longer standing in the way.

Joe Eliff was the sheriff when the question of women again came up for a vote. I have been told that Joe had been involved in another Corral which included women and so he tried to bring women into the Posse. Hathorn, Martin, **Howard Lewis**, Bird and many others continued to back the proposal. There was not as much controversy when the vote came up again as some of the strongest opponents were no longer active.

According to the *Smokesignal* the successful vote to have women in the general membership occurred on November 9, 1989 at
(Continued on Page 6)

By Richard H. Dillon

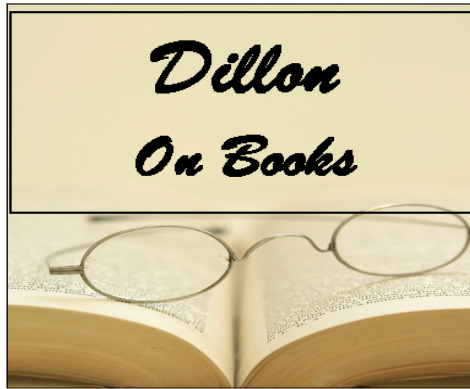
Deadly Dozen (Volume 3), by the estimable **Robert DeArment**, from the **University of Oklahoma Press** (\$29.95), is correctly subtitled "Forgotten Gunfighters of the Old West." If not all of them are completely forgotten, they are certainly among the lesser-known outlaws of the frontier era. Only three, perhaps, will be "half-known" to aficionados of the criminal history of the West—James Louis ("Whispering") Smith; Jim Masterson, Bat's brother, and David Neagle. It is good that DeArment has rescued Smith from fable and fiction. Unique was Jim Levy, the Old West's only Jewish gunslinger, although born in Ireland.

DeArment's chapter on Dave Neagle is particularly interesting. His subject was an ex-miner and lawman who, as a Special Deputy, was acting as bodyguard for Justice Stephen Field, caught up in a feud with Judge David Terry. When the latter attacked Field at a railroad stop in California, Lathrop, Neagle shot him to death. Out of his justifiable homicide trial came a Supreme Court decision that is still "in the books."

DeArment always writes well, and his usual depth of research is reflected in his end-notes and bibliography. □

The Deadliest Outlaws, by **Jeffrey Burton** (**University of North Texas Press**, (\$34.95) is a good book. The only thing wrong about it is, perhaps, its title. Members of the Ketchum Gang made better thieves than killers. Even the most notorious of the gang, Tom Ketchum, was hanged for train robbery, not murder. (It was Ketchum's misfortune to become, temporarily, famous when he was decapitated by the hangman's noose.)

What is important about this book is the great amount of material on Sam and Tom Ketchum and their small and short-lived (1897-99) connection with Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch. Also, Bur-



ton makes a strong case for Black Jack Ketchum being an entirely different outlaw, unrelated to Sam and Tom.

This book is labeled a second edition, but it is really as completely expanded and re-written version of the author's Dynamite and Six-Shooter (1970). Burton has illustrated his study in fine fashion, and his end-notes, index and bibliography are first-rate. □

The **University of Illinois Press** is the publisher of Dime Novel Desperados (\$29.95) by **John E. Hallwas**. From the title you might expect the Maxwell brothers to have been fictional outlaws. But they were real enough, just neglected by historians. Their exploits once filled newspaper columns in the Midwest, and the pages of the nationally popular dime novels that preceded 20th Century pulp fiction.

Ed and Lon Maxwell would be better-known had they operated Out West, but the West they prowled was in Illinois and Wisconsin. The brothers, who became robbers and horse thieves at an early age, were handsome and literate. But, as the sons of an impoverished tenant farmer, they were alienated from post-Civil War society. They cursed their anonymity, wishing to be "somebody," and drifted into crime, from youthful pranks and rowdy behavior to petty theft.

After their release from prison, the brothers murdered two lawmen. This led to a great manhunt which the dime novels picked up as "A Thousand-Mile Chase." Per-

haps as many as 300 possemen were involved in Illinois and Wisconsin, including a militia unit!

Professor Hallwas's account is excellent and heavily annotated. His research and documentation is of the caliber of Robert DeArment's case studies of Old West crime. □

One of the effective "secondary" generals of the Civil War, neglected because of all the attention paid by the public to Grant, Lee, Sherman, Sheridan and Jeb Stuart was General George Thomas. He was that rarity, a Southerner who stuck with the Union after Secession. Now largely forgotten, he was once famous as "The Rock of Chickamauga" who turned back Confederate charges.

We now have the full story of a remarkable soldier, as told by **Christopher J. Einolf** in his George Thomas: Virginian for the Union, now a paperback reprint (\$19.95) from the **University of Oklahoma Press**.

Thomas soldiered long before the Battle of Chickamauga, in both Florida's Seminole war and the Mexican War; and he continued to serve long after the Civil War, playing a prominent role in post-war Reconstruction.

Utah Westerners Meet

Utah Westerners met in May to hear the program "Emigrants on the Central Overland Trail" by **Jess Petersen**. While much attention has been paid to other wagon roads it was only recently that information was discovered showing the route the Pony Express followed through Utah and Nevada which also was used by many California-bound covered-wagon emigrants. The discovery of a number of diaries left by those who traveled the trail between 1859-1868 by Utah Westerner **John Hall** and later turned over to Petersen, resulted in a recent book on the subject by Petersen, West from Salt Lake: Diaries from the Central Overland Trail.

A Little WI History — Part II

(Continued from Page 4)

Black Angus restaurant.

A few members did quit. One person commented that this was not a big loss, while another indicated the club had lost good people who had been active and could tell great stories.

Although I was admitted as the first woman member, this was probably only by days as others such as **Gracelyn Martin, Alice Bird** and others all quickly joined. Women immediately took their place on the posse. Women, who are often good organization people and are used to taking care of details, quickly took up the gauntlet in the organization adding to the membership and taking on service roles in the posse. By the January installation, two months after women were included. I became the *Smokesignal* editor (1990-92) and later the Undersheriff, *Far-Westerner* editor (1993-1998) and then Sheriff. To date there have been two women sheriffs, myself and **Velia Gable**.

I think we might want to reflect on the women who won the west: The Native American Women, the Mexican Senoritas, the Military

Wives with the Indian fighting army as well as the army laundresses and camp followers, the Pioneer Women, the Bad Girls such as the women outlaws, the prostitutes and saloon and dancehall girls. Also the Do-Gooders (women missionaries, churchwomen and reformers), the Actresses and Theater Women (Lola Montez, Lilly Langtry), the School Marms and the Women Ranchers, Cowgirls and Rodeo Stars.

All of these women played a part in winning and settling the west. I would like to therefore propose a toast to women westerners, both past and present.

Postscript:

Women helped to energize the Stockton Corral for another 21 years but sadly, the corral faced what many volunteer organizations have faced—an aging and a dwindling membership with the same few officers maintaining the organization's positions year after year. Those officers finally had to retire and as of January 1, 2011, the Stockton Corral of Westerners went on hiatus after 51 years of being in existence.

There are hopes that the corral will someday "ride again."



The latest issue of *Territorial Times*, publication of the **Prescott, Arizona, Corral** has arrived and as usual is filled with interesting articles and illustrations. Included are an article on Charles Trumbull Hayden, whose family promoted and contributed to the development of Tempe, AZ, as a "productive agricultural and commercial town."

Another is about Edmund M. Wells, "Arizona Argonaut and Much More." What is an Argonaut in Arizona? According to a footnote it was a term applied "to those who headed to the American west in search of adventure or riches." Wells and his father, in search of gold, headed first to Colorado, then to the newly-discovered gold fields of Arizona Territory, settling in the Prescott area.



"Between Ship and Shore: California's Beaches as Frontiers" is the lead article in *The Branding Iron*, publication of the **Los Angeles Corral**. Also in this publication is an article on the Southwest Museum, first museum of Los Angeles and its founder, Charles Fletcher Lummis.



Theme of the latest issue of *The Pacific Northwesterner*, published by the **Spokane Corral**, is "Television Comes to Spokane" and includes articles on all aspects of the subject—history of various channels, local programs and personalities, from black and white to color. Well illustrated and with a complete index.

It's Your *Buckskin Bulletin*

What do you and your corral members like to see the most in the *Buckskin Bulletin*?

Do you want more pictures of corral events and activities?

Do you like to read about the kinds of programs other groups have?

Do you like reviews of books by Westerners or of interest to them?

How about feature stories on the history of the Westerners?

More in depth news on the winners of our WI awards?

Stories about outstanding Westerners—more Living Legends?

Do you like Corral Roundup—news from various corrals and posses?

Are articles about the various corral publications of interest?

How about an article from some of the old bulletins?

The bulletin is a way to keep our far-flung membership in touch with each other, present ideas about programs and activities that others might want to try in their group. Let us know what you think and please send your pictures and corral news, articles you think might be of interest to other Westerners. Our e-mail address and mailing address are both listed on the back page of this bulletin.

Scottsdale Corral Has a New Home

*By Patricia A. Etter
Sheriff, 2011*



The three founders of the Scottsdale Corral, left to right, Robert Trennert, John Augustine and the late Aaron Cohen, are pictured at the corral's 20 anniversary celebration.

Due to the generosity of **Shelly & Gordon Dudley**, the **Scottsdale Corral** of Westerners' new meeting house is in the historic Guidon Bookstore, 7109 East 2nd Street, Scottsdale, Arizona 85251. It is an appropriate place for a meeting since once inside members are surrounded with books on any aspect of the American West. Here, one can also relax in a comfy chair in a single room dedicated to the study of all aspects of the Civil War. There are four other rooms where one can browse current publications, rare books, books on American Indians, exploration, art and more. The Westerners will not have any trouble researching material for their papers!

Aaron and **Ruth Cohen** opened the bookstore in 1964 and it was a place where Cowboy Artists of America would stop by looking for something new. Comfortably settled by 1976, Aaron got together with **Robert Trennert** and **John Augustine** to found the Scottsdale Corral, whose members over time have won Old Joes for books, articles and even Best Corral. Memorabilia from the Scottsdale Corral occupies prominent spaces in the bookstore.

Aaron Cohen was among 10 individuals who received an Arizona Culture Keepers in 1010. These awards are given to those who have worked to preserve the image of Arizona. Aaron died not long after in 2011 at the age of 92. His daughter, Shelly Dudley, carries on the tradition as proprietor.

The Scottsdale Corral meets regularly at the Guidon Bookstore and those who visit Arizona are always welcome to the meetings or to come and browse the bookshelves. Visit the Corral website to make a reservation or call the store at 480/945-8811 or at bookmaster@guidon.com.



Scottsdale Corral's Old Joe guards some of the books at the Group's new home in the Guidon Bookstore.

Westerners International

c/o National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd St. Oklahoma City, OK 73111



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
Paid
Oklahoma City, OK
Permit No. 891

This 'n That for Westerners

The 20th annual **West River History Conference** will be October 4-6 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Rapid City, SD. This year's theme is "Romanticism of the West Touching our Roots."

There is a call for paper with the deadline being September 1. Those wishing to participate should submit the title, brief description and biographical sketch. Paper topics are not limited to the conference theme. Any topic relating to the history of the region is welcome. Presentations should be limited to 25 minutes.

Keynote speakers include Sequoia Crosswhite and Jim Hatzell. Speaker at the Saturday Westerners breakfast will be Johanna Meie who served as director of the Black Hills Passion Play from 1991 to 2008.

Further information can be found at wrhc@shebbyleetours.com.



Bob Clark, of the Arthur H. Clark Co. (an imprint of the University of Oklahoma Press) is moving from Norman, OK, to the Pullman, Washington, area. He will be assuming the position of editor-in-chief at Washington State University Press.

He will be greatly missed in Oklahoma City and Norman by the **Home Ranch Bunch** as well as the members of the **South Canadian Cross-Timbers Corral**.



Did you know—if you plan to attend a meeting of the **Pahaska Corral**, Cody, WY, you should take lots of quarters if you "wear city duds or plan to cuss!"

BUCKSKIN BULLETIN

Issued quarterly by Westerners International, a Foundation to stimulate interest and research in frontier history. Send correspondence to:

Westerners International
c/o National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
Phone: 1-800-541-4650
E-mail
WIHomeRanch@gmail.com

Annual Dues

\$5 per member

HOME RANCH BUNCH

Kent McInnis, Don Reeves, Rodney Goddard, Mary Marvel, Noel Kruger, Ed Kelsay, Bill Deupree, John & Melvena Heisch, Jim Argo, Fred Marvel, Cheryl McInnis, Sandra & Dennis Noble, John Marshall, Revere Young, Burnis Argo