

# Buckskin Bulletin

VOL. XLV

NEWSLETTER OF WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL  
[www.westerners-international.org](http://www.westerners-international.org)

ISSUE 3, 2012

## Tom Powers Speaks to Group, Topic is The Killing of Crazy Horse

The **Omaha Corral** of Westerners kicked off their new lecture season in a big way by inviting Pulitzer Prize winning author **Tom Powers**, photo right, to speak to their members on September 6.

Best known as a journalist concerned with modern subjects such as the CIA and espionage, Mr. Powers has recently produced a book that analyzes the events that surrounded the killing of Crazy Horse at Fort Robinson in 1877.

At first the choice of subject matter may seem unusual, but as anyone familiar with the Plains Indian Wars knows, the enigmatic life and death of Crazy Horse is so clouded in legend and lore, that it has become difficult to know fact from fiction. Adding to this already muddled situation is the century-long clash of intra-tribal politics, cultural traditions, Army duplicity and conspiracy theorists.

Crazy Horse's life has been told and retold by many well-known writers; among them Mari Sandoz and Stephen Ambrose. What author Tom Powers has done is not so much historic revisionism as bring an investigative journalist's critical eye to a complex story and work to make sense of it all. Judging by the comments and questions offered by the Corral of Westerners, Tom Powers' efforts were well received and appreciated.

His book was published by Vintage Publishers.

This special meeting began the corral's 50th anniversary year.



# The President—Rodney Goddard

## Greetings & Salutations:

We have survived another blast furnace of a summer here in Oklahoma and now it is time to look at what needs to be done in the cooler times ahead.

The annual **Western History Association** meeting in Denver is over and I hope everyone who attended had a chance to meet members of the new **Student Posse** from **Western State Colorado University**, Gunnison. I wanted them to circulate and sell attendees on the idea of organizing other student posses. I think they managed to accomplish this

as they certainly seemed to make a good impression on everyone they met.

Now the next step is to get WI members to give the Home Ranch names of possible contacts at colleges and universities. If this organization can get Student Posses established in the academic world, then WI can make the important generational leap that we must in order to survive. We hope this is a project WHA will consider working on with us as we believe it is to their advantage, too.

It is nearly time for the forms for the 2012 Awards submissions to go out. The

forms will be mailed to all Corral "Reps" as they always are in early January. However, they also will be posted on our web page: <http://www.westerners-international.org> I ask the groups to be sure to follow the instructions on the forms such as the eligibility of both the entrant and the sponsoring posse/corral and get them to the Home Ranch by the due date.

As your WI President I am open for invitations to attend your meetings and lastly, do not hesitate to offer suggestions for improving my role here at the WI Home Ranch.

# The Chairman—Kent McInnis

Five years ago then **Legend**. I wanted to ask a picture of Andrew Jackson. Westerners Chairman **Revere Young** called me to the story correct. Rather abruptly, he informed me that there would be no article. He ordered that the project stop. **Revere Young** did not want the attention to ever focus upon himself. For six years he had led this organization with the precision of the general he was. His heritage influenced his humility. Years ago, at a gathering we commonly attended, I forgot my billfold and had to ask Revere for a quick loan to pay for my dinner. Soon thereafter at another meeting, I handed him a \$20 bill. He refused to take it. "But I owe you," I protested. His reply told me volumes about his perspective. "It has tested. His reply told me volumes about his perspective. "It has"

him a few questions to get son," he stated, recalling the forced relocation and movement of so many Indian tribes westward into Indian Territory. "I refuse to carry his likeness on my person." The Trail of Tears of the 1830s forged the general's view of the American West.

In July, General Revere Young passed away. He was a great man. He leaves his wife, Mary, the consummate "General's wife," to carry on. We are so pleased to have her continued attendance at our **Chisholm Trail Corral** meetings in Oklahoma City. Westerners are family. We take care of our own.

Several years ago I told him I was writing an article, nominating him as a **Living** of American history. "It has

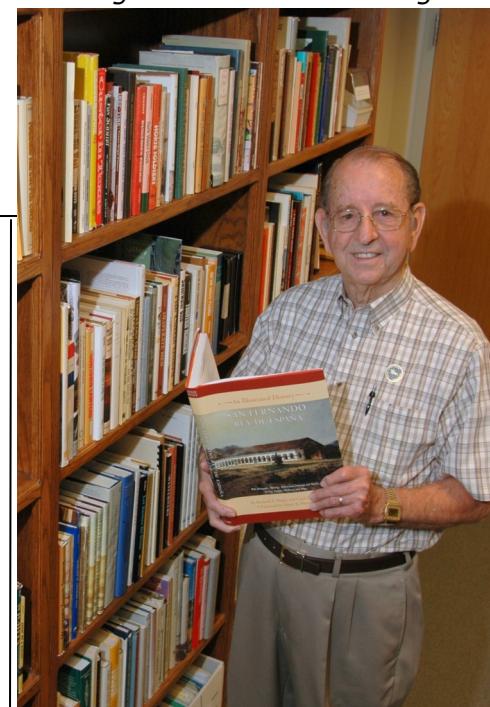
# The Editor—Burnis Argo

Those of you with sharp style, he felt, reflected that eyes may wonder why the and being a very hands on story on the bottom of the Chairman, who spent many last page, as well as this hours at the Home Ranch, it one, both about **Revere** was pretty difficult to slip **Young**, are written in a something by that wasn't block style—or justified, written in that style. If he with the lines all straight in caught you he was very po-the right margin as they are lite, but firm, "I think that in the left. It is in honor of would look better if you Revere who always wanted wrote it so the margins all letters and anything else were the same. Don't you sent from this office to be think so, too?" And then he that way during the years would grin and the offend-he served as WI Chairman. ing party, usually me, would Indeed, he wanted the bul- immediately scurry around letin articles that way too! and take care of it.

Being a military man he liked things to be precise, have done these two articles orderly and very neat. This cles your way.



Brig. Gen Revere A. Young



## Corral Roundup

"Where to look for them. How to recognize them. What is their historical importance? What are they good for today? Who cares?" What was this intriguing sounding program for the **Denver Posse** all about?

"Buffalo Wallows" was the subject and **John Monnett** the speaker at the group's September meeting.



As do many of our member groups the **San Francisco Corral** placed a plea in a recent meeting notice hoping to attract volunteers for some vacant corral of-

fice positions.

"We do not want to keep calling on our ex-Sheriffs to do another term....This Corral cannot continue with no new people taking on responsibilities."



The September meeting of the **South Canadian Cross-Timbers Corral**, Norman, Oklahoma, was a chance for members to get caught up after the summer.

"Bring some books for the raffle, some treats to share and enjoy a chance to meet and greet friends from the trails," read the notice.

When **Revere Young** joined the **Home Ranch** he noticed something he didn't like. Metal shelves for the WI Library? Couldn't we do better? WI was in a severe money crunch so he immediately made an offer. He loaned WI the money for handsome new wooden shelves and then arranged for them to be crafted. A grateful Executive Committee worked hard and soon had him paid back.

# W I S U M M E R



Mary Marvel, above, gives the financial report at the WI Summer board meeting following a dinner at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Board meetings are always open to any WI members interested and copies of the minutes are available. The Fall Board meeting is held each October during the annual Western History Association meeting.



John & Melvena Heisch, left, consult the financial report while Don Reeves takes minutes. Above is board member Sandra Noble.

Photos by Jim Argo



# B O A R D M E E T I N G



Above, left to right, are board members Ed Kelsay, John Marshall, rear, Dennis Noble and Leon and Marcene Nelson. Receiving Thank-You gifts for their service, below, is retiring WI President David Carter, Fort Smith Corral, left, and retiring WI executive board member Leon Nelson, Indian Territory Posse, right. Presenting the plaques was Kent McInnis, executive board chairman.



# Corral Roundup

**Potomac Corral** sent a notice to the Home Ranch this past summer that it might go into Dry Camp. The reason is one we hear often "We have not been able to recruit new officers and the current office holders are 'trail weary'." We have received no further information from them.



**Dennis Garstang, Kansas City Posse, and Bob Pulcipher, Denver Posse**, recently attended the annual meeting of the Wild West History Association in Prescott, Arizona.

According to Garstang several other Westerners International members also were in attendance.

"The WWHA is the premier western history organization in the U.S. with a current membership of about 700. For more information go to [wildwesthistory.org](http://wildwesthistory.org)," he said.



Fall Gathering of the **Santa Barbara Corral** was held October 7 at the Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort. **Palmer Jackson**, ranch host, related the history of his family and ranch from the early 1800s.

## WI Award Winners For 2011 Are Named

### **Co-Founders Best Book Award**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Chuck Parsons**, *English Westerners Society Captain John R. Hughes, Lone Star Ranger*  
University of North Texas Press

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **David L. Bigler & Will Bagley**, *Utah Westerners The Mormon Rebellion, America's First Civil War, 1857-1858*  
University of Oklahoma Press

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Ernest Marquez, Los Angeles Corral**  
*Noir Afloat: Tony Cornero and the Notorious Gambling Ships of Southern California*  
Angel City Press

### **Coke Wood Award for Monographs, Articles**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Patricia A. Etter**, Scottsdale Corral  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **John H. Monnett**, Denver Posse  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Erik Berg**, Scottsdale Corral

### **Philip A. Danielson Award, Best Programs**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Major John Milton Hutchins**, Boulder County  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Gary Turner**, Los Angeles Corral  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Karen Iselin**, Scottsdale Corral

### **Fred Olds Western Poetry Award**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Rod Miller**, Utah Westerners  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Abraham Hoffman**, Los Angeles Corral

### **Heads Up Award**

Corrals Organized Prior to 1973  
**Los Angeles Corral**  
**Eric A. Nelson, Sheriff**

Corrals Organized 1973 and Later  
**Fort Abraham Lincoln Corral, Bismarck, North Dakota**  
**Mike Knudson, Sheriff**

Overseas Corrals  
**English Westerners Society, England**  
**Francis Taunton, Sheriff**

# English Westerners Society Meets

**By Ray Cox**

The annual Members Meeting of the **English Westerners Society** took place on the first Saturday of October at Doggett's Coat and Badge, overlooking the Thames on the South Bank, London.

The lunch attendance was 20 and this provided the usual time for camaraderie, and the renewal of friendships and acquaintances in what is overall a relatively small Westerners community, members widely dispersed around the country.

At the business meeting there was unanimous decision to re-elect the present Committee *en bloc*.

During the afternoon there was the annual auction of books, a feature always of importance to the Society, both because books are an important source of the members' interests and because the auction produces additional funds.

The three talks during the afternoon were from:

1. **Michelle Pollard**, *Tally Sheet* editor and Jesse James expert. The talk was of unusual novelty, titled *Jesse James and Why They Called Him Dave* and concerned the intriguing analogue between incidents in Jesse's life and the life of David of the Old Testa-

ment.

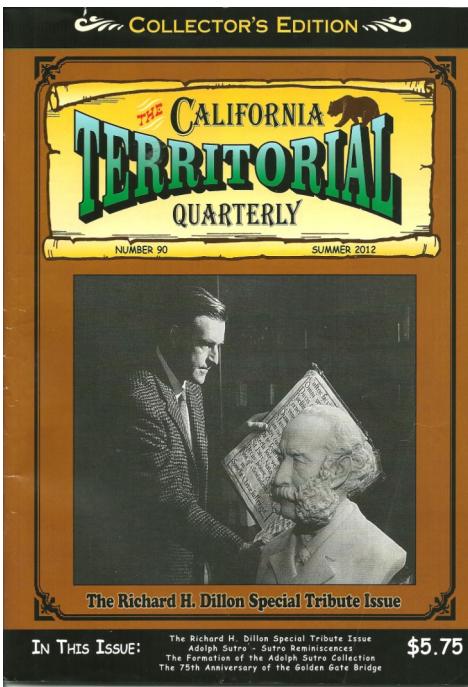
2. **Tim Slessor**, society member and London author of a new book *More Than Cowboys: Travels Through the History of the American West*. His talk was called *Fifty Years of Going West*, about his love particularly for the Plains of Nebraska and Wyoming from his early years in the 1960s when he was sent out to make documentary programmes for the BBC.

3. **Keith Robinson**. His talk was called *Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson on the film Carson City 1997*.

## Richard Dillon Honored

A regular feature in the *Buckskin Bulletin* is a book review column by **Richard**

**H. Dillon**. A longtime Westerner and member of the **San Francisco Corral** as well as a retired librarian, distinguished scholar, historian and author, we are honored to have him send us reviews to publish. A letter a few years ago chided us for not sharing more about Dillon himself. Where to start, we wondered, and fortunately this daunting job was tackled by the *California Territorial Quarterly* which published a special Richard H. Dillon Tribute Issue this past summer. Want to know more about Dillon? Find a copy of this treasure.



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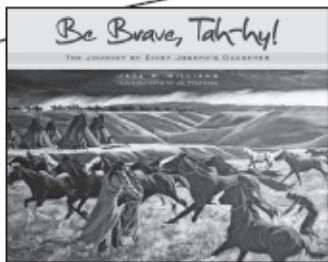
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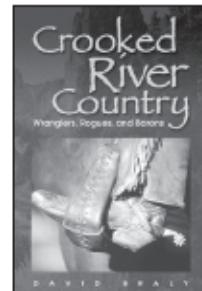
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