

Buckskin Bulletin

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NEWSLETTER OF WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL

Winter Issue 2013

www.westerners-international.org

The annual mail-out of award forms and dues notice has been sent to "Reps"

Living Legend #57

Fred Egloff Honored by Westerners

By Jim Schiffer
Sheriff, Chicago Corral

I have read several Living Legend articles in the *Buckskin Bulletin*, great stories about some really great people. The things they have done, their accomplishments, how they went about it, then I thought, my dear friend **Fred Egloff** is one of these Living Legends.

I first met Fred when I joined the **Chicago Corral** back in 1979, maybe 1980. Lo those many years ago. I did not know anyone when I attended my first meeting but Fred came over and introduced himself and took me around to meet all of the other members. Wow, what a bunch of colorful characters I would later find them to be.

What I started to notice was that Fred was always sitting near the fabled **Don Russell**. Most of the other members, both new and seasoned, were really paying attention to what both Don and Fred had to say about the range of subjects which were discussed in the "Sit N Bull" session before the meetings started. Fred was always kind to include me in the conversations by asking about my interests in the Old West. Well, that is enough about me. I began to notice a pattern

and it was that Fred was in demand to be the guest speaker at the next meeting so often it seemed he provided one or more programs every year. As other guest speakers arrived for their presentation they all seemed to know Fred or know about him. Fred was legendary even back then. Those guest speakers spent so much time talking with Fred they almost forgot they were there to give their own talk.

Fred always had a way of bringing out information from people who didn't even know it would be of interest to others. One example was a back yard conversation Fred had at his

home in Wilmette, Illinois, talking about The Old West in general, Fred's neighbor provided some information about a lawman from El Paso, Texas. That conversation became a presentation at a Westerners meeting and an award winning book. El Paso Lawman, G.W. Campbell by Egloff was a Western Writers of America "Spur" Award finalist and was voted one of Top 100 Outstanding 20th Century Non-Fiction Books on the American West compiled by Westerners International members. Don Russell is quoted as saying about Fred and his book:

(Continued on Page 4)



Fred Egloff, wife Sherry and their dog Scout pose in front of their legendary 1937 BMW 328, nicknamed "Smoke."

The Chairman—Kent McInnis

For hopefully the first and only time, your chairman tried assuming the limited title of editor for the *Buckskin Bulletin*. **Burnis Argo** was out of commission. Never underestimate the value of contributions offered at the WI Home Ranch. Never assume skills that don't exist. This is why your chairman failed to crank out the 4th quarter issue of the *Bulletin*.

You don't appreciate the able staff here at headquarters until they step away for a while. In addition she has been acting as office manager with the skills to get tasks done before your chairman knows when to bark an order. Next to her is assistant (acting) treasurer, **Mary Marvel**. Even on days she is preoccupied with more pressing matters, she promptly comes in before the rest of us

arrive to pay our bills. Further, Mary assists with office tasks (again before your chairman can bark) which qualifies her to manage the office without our interference. It's the easiest leadership gig any chairman could pray for.

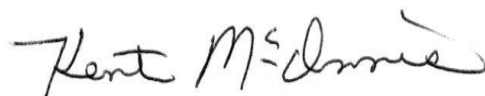
Your WI President, **Rodney Goddard**, is here every Tuesday morning to keep his ear to the ground with what is happening to your various posses and corrals around the world. He remains on standby to assist anyone in need.

Finally, our resident WI secretary, who works full time at the **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum**, is **Don Reeves**. He is the man who serves as our liaison to many important people at this world class museum we call the home of the **Home**

Ranch.

Others who support us at the Museum include museum president **Chuck Schroeder**, webmaster **Sharon Kasper**, printer **Steve Tucker** and archivist director **Gerrienne Schaad**.

We need active board members, *Buckskin Bulletin* contributors, Home Ranch helpers, financial donors and even award entrants. Your chairman knows the WI Home Ranch is in good hands, but hopes that more volunteers will join him to keep it that way. All it took to remind him was one month trying to do someone else's task. In 10 years, who will be the backbone of this organization? It depends upon our members.



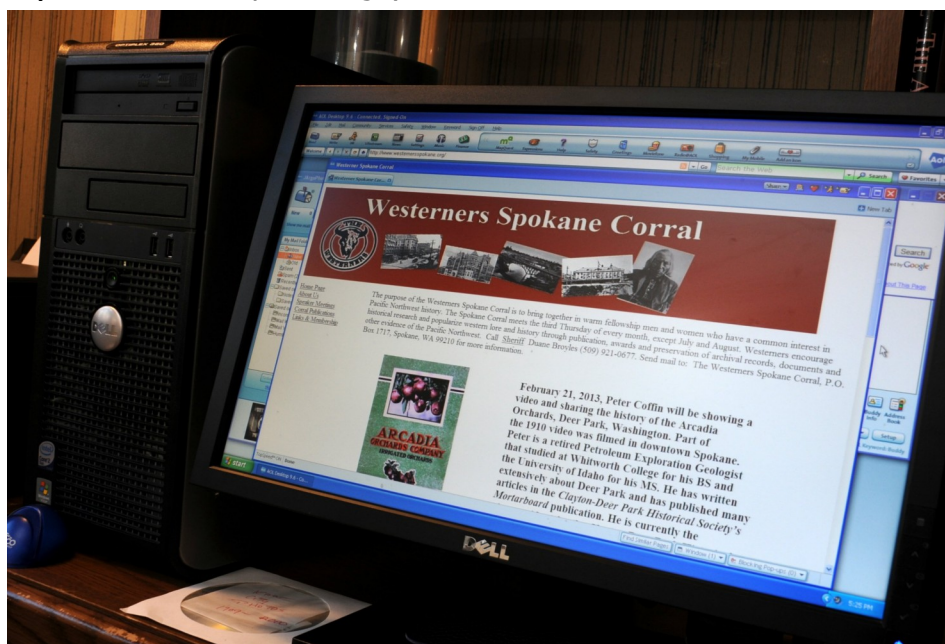
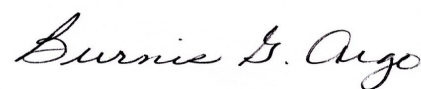
The Editor—Burnis Argo

Have you ever wondered what other Westerners groups are like and are doing? You can get some information, of course, from the *Buckskin Bulletins* but space is limited so only a little about what goes on can be included. **BUT**—did you know many of our corrals and posses have **blogs, websites** and **Facebook** pages? There is lots of information there.

On the WI Home Ranch web page: **www.westerners-international.org** there are links to many of these on the page where we list all our member groups. Go there and spend a little time getting acquainted with fellow Westerners. If your group has such a

site and is not listed, please let us know so you can be added.

(Photo, below, by Jim Argo)



Something New Is Planned for WI Web Page

How many WI members visit our website? Some, but not as many as could or should. In an effort to lure more of you there, and in preparation for another change in the planning stages, we are adding an extra page to our on-line *Buckskin Bulletin*.

You didn't know we put the bulletin on the web page? Indeed we do and if you read it there you will see it sooner than getting it in the mail and the pictures are in color and there is no waiting for the printer or the post office.

Beginning with this issue we are adding **The WI Extra**, a page at the end of Page 8. It is mainly a picture page, with a little text, about activities of special interest to our Westerners members. The photo, right, of the **Omaha Corral** would have been great for **The Extra** but we wanted everyone to be able to enjoy it.

The Extra will only be available with the on-line bulletin and we hope you enjoy it at:

www.westerners-international.org

Be on the lookout for things in your area which might be of interest to other Westerners and please send your pictures of corral and posse meetings and activities to us. We like them for the regular pages of the bulletin, printed Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall, but now there will be a second place for us to use them. Look for the bulletin and **The Extra** about the 3rd week of February, May, August and November.



*What is going on here? It's the members of the **Omaha Corral** enjoying their January program. Said Sheriff **Jeff Barnes**, who sent us the photograph, "Our January program required 3-D glasses to see the stereoviews presented by our speaker from the Union Pacific Museum. I know it's the first time we ever needed such glasses for our meetings—maybe it's a Westerners first!" Perhaps so as we have not ever received such a Corral picture before.*

Watson Parker Is Remembered

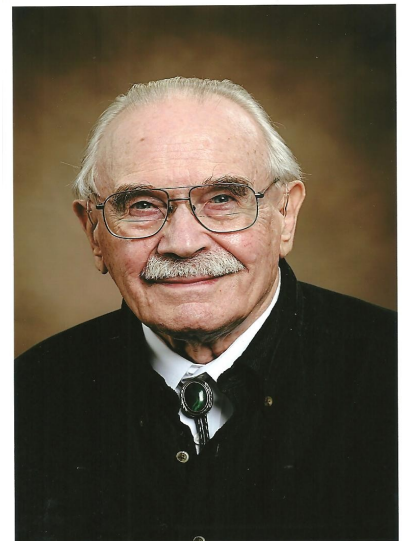
WI Living Legend No. 51, **Watson Parker**, passed away January 9 in Rapid City, SD, after a lengthy illness. Known as the Black Hills Historian, he is well-known for his research on ghost towns and mining history. He published numerous books and papers on the Black Hills and Deadwood.

Though born in Illinois, Parker moved with his family to Hill City, South Dakota, in 1927 at the age of 3 where his family ran the Palmer Gulch Lodge, a family resort and dude ranch, until 1962.

Following his service in World War II, he received degrees from the University of Chicago and Cornell University. He then attended the University of Oklahoma where he earned both his Masters and PhD in American History. In 1965 he, his wife Olga and their family

moved to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where he taught at the University of Wisconsin until retiring as Professor Emeritus in 1986.

A memorial service for Parker will be held this summer at the family ranch in Palmer Gulch near Hill City. He was a **Black Hills Corral** member.



Watson Parker

Egloff Latest WI "Living Legend"

.(Continued from Page 1)

"Rarely does anyone bother to find out what really happened. Fred Egloff constitutes one of those rare exceptions."

I am proud to have a signed, inscribed copy in my collection.

Fred once asked me if I had any interest in antique vehicles. He invited me to a sports car show in Lake Forest, IL. When I arrived there were many concourse quality vehicles on display with a large crowd around one particular car. I was looking for Fred and thought someone in that crowd should know where I could find him. To my surprise the crowd was around Fred as he was being interviewed about his very historical antique race car. Fred saw me in the crowd and waved me over.

The car he owned was a 1937 BMW 328. That car had won the 1939 Grand Prix in Holland at Zandvoort. Fred's meticulous research uncovered an old film of the car winning the race. With WWII starting the car was hidden from Nazis at Pulchri Studios in the Hague.

Wearing a racing helmet in place of a cowboy hat he won the 1970 Vintage Sports Car Club's Competition Trophy racing a LeMans Frazier Nash and in 1997 won it with the 328 BMW. He eventually sold the BMW after 41 years of ownership to another collector who promised to keep it in its original condition.

Member of the Chicago Region SCCA and recipient of many national awards for both editing and writing. His articles

appeared in "Sports Car," "Sports Car Graphic," "Piston Patter," "Vintage Racer," "Historic Motor Sports Journal," "Old Cars," and in numerous race programs. As a licensed National SCCA competition driver, Fred has raced in both the U.S. and Mexico. He is the only 3 time winner of the National Lake Michigan Miglia. He was a founder of the largest marque club (BMW) in the Chicago area and "Auto-Historica" exhibition series.

After a decade of research, Fred's book Origin of the Checkered Flag was published in 2006 answering one of racing history's most puzzling questions. Ms Denise McCluggage, in her review, said it consisted of "impeccable research." It received high praise in top auto historian Beverly Rae Kimes' last review.

A graduate of Loyola University, Fred is a past president of Westerners International and a past Sheriff of the **Chicago Corral**. He was the third editor of **The Chicago Corral Brand Book**, following **Don Russell**. He received a key to the city from El Paso's mayor for casting new light on early El Paso history. Fred's research also uncovered and documented the source of the BOMB used at the Jesse James farm house by the Pinkertons.

He has been awarded the Glen Shirley "Lifetime Achievement" Award of Western Outlaw-Lawman Association, the WI Sidewinder Award and the Don Russell Memorial Award.

Fred has served on the visiting committee of D'Arcy McNichols center for Indian

History at the Newberry Library in Chicago and has served on numerous panel discussions with other authors

and western movie stars answering questions on the West. He has reviewed hundreds of Western books for BOOKLIST, and been acknowledged for his help in over a hundred books by authors.

His articles have appeared in many publications, "Handbook of Texas," "Tombstone Epitaph," "True West," "Journal of the West" and "Vigilantes of Western American History."

One very funny part of my association with Fred occurred when we were in Tucson for a WHA conference. I was to meet Fred at the hotel bar and when I arrived he was already there talking to a gentleman at the bar. I sat down and he introduced me to **Fred Nolan**. I never thought Nolan was the same Fred Nolan, outstanding Billy the Kid authority. After a beer I said "Mr. Nolan what is your interest in the old West?" Fred laughed so hard he just about fell off his bar stool.

Fred and wife Sherry have relocated to Kerrville, Texas, and he is active in the San Antonio **Southwest Vaqueros Corral**. He is chairman of the research Library and a member of the board at the Museum of Western Art where he was named Volunteer of the year in 2011.



WI Problems We Need to Solve

In the past few months the **Home Ranch** has received word from two of our older Corrals that appear headed to **Dry Camp**. What does this mean?

What Is Dry Camp?

Westerners International never completely strikes a group off our rolls. When the time comes a Corral or Posse, for whatever reason, cannot continue on we put them in the folder called "Dry Camp." This is because from time to time we have had a group reactivate and since it was in dry camp it doesn't have to reapply for membership but can continue on under the old information.

The two groups in question are the **Potomac Corral** in Washington, D.C., organized in 1954 as the 10th group in our pecking order and the **San Diego Corral**, No. 30, organized in 1967.

The reasons given are the same as other groups have cited—young people not interested in joining any organization, members not wanting to accept any offices or responsibilities for keeping the group going and the aging of our membership. The latter results in people not wanting to be out driving at night or feeling they can no longer afford a meal out very often.

Let's Find Solutions

So what we need to do, as a group, is think of some solutions to these problems. A few groups have gone to luncheon meetings or just snacks or dessert. The **Durango Corral** only meets four times a year. Some units have joined together

er such as the **Santa Fe Corral** and the **Albuquerque Corral** which joined to form the **Central New Mexico Corral**.

As for the problem of people not wanting to be officers there are a few things that could be tried. Of course we would all love to wander on down to the meeting once a month, visit with friends, eat a nice dinner, hear a good program and then go home until the next month. But someone has to arrange for the meeting place, the meal, take reservations and the money, and find a speaker. After a few years the people who are willing to do these jobs get tired of it even though the jobs don't require that much time.

Finding Programs

Probably the most difficult job is getting programs. What about making each member responsible for finding one speaker a year or volunteering to give one themselves? All the programs do not have to come from outside Westerners as some groups seem to feel. In the beginning, when **Leland D. Case** and **Elmo Scott Watson** started the first group, the **Chicago Corral**, members researched a subject they were interested in, wrote up a paper and presented it before the other members who, in those days, either cheered or jeered the presentation, resulting, apparently, in some pretty lively meetings and discussions.

Now we don't have to do the cheering and jeering part but each member of Westerners is a member because of an interest in some aspect of the

American West. So share that interest, tell what it is, how you got it, how you pursue it. And no, it doesn't have to be a "scholarly" presentation, just an enthusiastic sharing of something you love.

Younger Members

The aging of our membership is more difficult but the new WI President, **Rodney Goddard**, is working on that. He recently formed a student corral at Western Colorado State University in Gunnison. Some of you may have seen and met members of the **West Elk Wranglers** at the Western History Association meeting in Denver last October. Goddard's theory is when the students are graduated they may settle in an area where there is a Corral or Posse and want to join it to continue the Westerner experience or maybe start another group on their own. So any members living in a college town or teaching at one is encouraged to contact him about starting another student group.

These are only a few ideas. We hope all of you will think about some solutions to our various problems. Let's work together to see what we can do to keep that Dry Camp Folder very slim, indeed.

Burnis Argo,
Bulletin Editor

The Home Ranch Bunch is actively seeking ideas from our WI members for solving the problems our member groups are facing. Please share your thoughts and ideas with us. If we all work together we can make our organization strong. All suggestions are welcome.

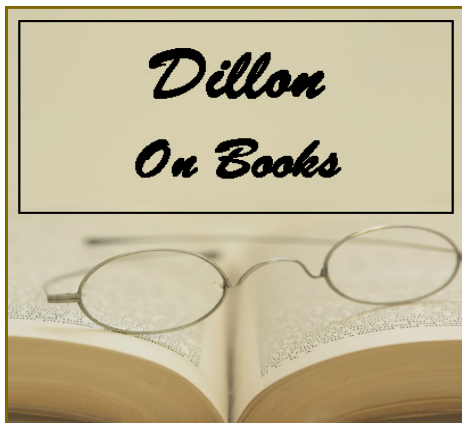
By Richard Dillon

Like the situation with Lincoln and Napoleon, there seems to be no end of books on the subject of the Texas Rangers. **Bob Utley** produced a couple, but it is **Mike Cox** who brings the Rangers' story up-to-date with his second volume of his history of the Texas Rangers, **Time of the Rangers: The Texas Rangers, 1900 to Present** Forge Book (\$27.99), published by Tom Doherty Associates, 175 5th Ave, NY 10010.

The Rangers, once a quasi-military frontier militia, grew into a state police force in the 20th Century. During the Mexican Revolution of Pancho Villa, et al, from 1900 for years, they had Mexican bandito's across the line into the U.S. to control. Then, in the Roaring 20's and Depression and Dust Bowl-cursed 1930's, there were bank robbers and bootleggers to attend to, as well as oil town rowdies.

The best-known of the 20th Century hoods were Bonnie (Parker) and Clyde (Barrow) who made Ranger Frank Hamer famous for his bloody ambush of the criminal couple.

By 1935 the metamorphosis was complete and the Rangers were merged into the Texas Department of Public Safety. Today their work ranges from investigation of public corruption (and raiding of polygamous Mormons) to detection of terrorist plots. Their most controversial case in recent years has been their role in the bungled raid on Waco's Branch Davidian sect.



Forgotten Fights, by **Gregory and Susan Michno** (Mountain Press, \$28) subtitled "Little-known Raids and Skirmishes on the Frontier, 1823 to 1890," is a companion volume to the authors' excellent **Encyclopedia of Indian Wars**. It is a marvelous reference tool.

Instead of repeating what we already know about Sand Creek or the Little Bighorn, the Michnos introduce us to many "lost" engagements, using hard-to-find details of minor collisions between Indians and whites. The very number of such actions tells how dangerous was the early frontier.

State by state, the authors first map and date skirmish sites. There are so many in

regard to early Texas that two maps are necessary! The main text is an analysis of Western fights from Skull Creek in Texas (1823) to Chief Coloraw's "war" in 1887 in Colorado.



An American who deserves to be better remembered is John Ledyard. **Edward G. Gray** tells his story in **The Making of John Ledyard** (\$35, Yale University Press).

Ledyard was an adventurous young Dartmouth College drop-out who sailed to the "Farthest West"—Hawaii— as one of Captain Cook's Royal Marines. He later wrote an important account of Cook's last voyage.

Described by the author as both a product and an agent of empire, Ledyard anticipated Meriwether Lewis with a plan to cross North America afoot, but from West to East. Starting in Europe, he actually got as far as Siberia before suspicious Russians arrested and expelled him. Still later, in attempting to walk across Africa, he died of fever in Cairo.

Omaha Corral Celebrates 50 Years

Members of the **Omaha Corral** celebrated the founding of the group in 1962 at the November meeting. Members and guests were encouraged to "dress for the West" and in further celebration members of the Wild West Creations re-enactors group met in the hotel lounge, where a disagreement broke out, sending all into the parking lot for a shootout.

Following dinner Father Vincent A. Heier, a retired Catholic priest from St. Louis and a lifelong student of George Custer, presented a postcard tour of the Little Bighorn battlefield.

The corral continued the 50th Anniversary festivities at the December meeting, where they held the annual book exchange and brought items for the Omaha Food Bank. Speaker was photographer Fr. Don Doll, S.J., Creighton University who talked about his latest book, **A Call to Vision**, a review of his early work with native Americans.



New officers of the **Prescott Corral** are, from left front row, Cindy Gresser, Donna Sherwin and Russ Sherwin. Left to right, back row, Fred Veil, Tom Collins (Deputy), Dana Sharp (Sheriff), Jack Hoeft, Bob Galloway, Al Bates and Bruce Fee.

Corral Roundup

"Colorado Sails the Oceans in the 19th Century" is the intriguing title of the **Denver Posse** meeting in January. Though the notice says "Colorado really has a maritime history! It is a fascinating story of sailing vessels and their role in U.S. independence from Great Britain.

Apparently you had to attend the program to find out this link to Colorado. Even a trip through Google on the computer failed to reveal this interesting connection.

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The January meeting of the **Pahaska Corral**, Cody, WY, featured a program by **Dr. Gregory Smith** entitled "Worst Apocalypse Ever: Why the World Did Not End in 2012."

"I know, I, too, was disappointed," remarked Sheriff **Richard Gruber**, tongue in cheek, in the newsletter.

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The **San Dimas**, CA, Cor-

ral has a special feature in its corral newsletter each month. They run a childhood picture of a member for the others to try and identify.

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The January meeting of the **Santa Barbara Corral** featured an interesting program by a past sheriff, **Bob Burtness**. The talk was about "an inexplicable and practically unknown series of home front tragedies that spanned WWII and the Korean War involving the connected loss of two B-24 bombers, one sailboat and sixteen lives in locales as diverse as the Los Padres National Forest, San Miguel Island and the Santa Barbara Channel."

Those not members of this group who would like to hear more about this are in luck as Burtness is the author of a new book describing the subject of the talk. Perhaps someone can provide further details.

Kansas Corral Meets in Abilene

Members of the **Kansas Corral** met in Abilene in January for a planning session. The goal was to come up with programs for March through October. Since this group rotates meetings between several cities in Kansas, planning is certainly required.

According to members **Ann Birney** and **Joyce Theirer**, the group was working to find programs on Kansas or western history which can be taken to various places around Kansas, offering a program that is not usually available to local people. They also want to arrange for them to be co-sponsored with another organization such as a public library or a local historical society.

The meeting was held at the home of one of the corral founders, **John Wickman**.

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E-mail

WIHomeRanch@gmail.com

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HOME RANCH BUNCH

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Boulder Corral met in January to hear a program by **Catherine Spude** based on her latest book, That Fiend in Hell. The "fiend" was one Jefferson Randolph "Soapy" Smith who, with his entourage of "bunco-men" conned and robbed the gold-seekers who flowed into Skagway, Alaska. In her book Spude sorts fact from fiction regarding Soapy and the myth that grew up about him following his death.

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The January meeting of the **John G. Neihardt Corral**, Columbia, Missouri, featured a talk by **Marty Paten** who is the author of a local history book, The Columbia Branch Railroad, 1836-2011.

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"The Frontier Life of Bob Paul"

Corral Roundup

was the subject of the January meeting of the **San Francisco Corral**. Speaker was **John Boessenecker** who based his talk on his new book When Law Was In the Holster: The Frontier Life of Bob Paul.

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Also with a recently published book is **Jim Potter** who presented a program for the **Pine Ridge Corral**, Chadron, Nebraska, based on the book, Standing Firmly by the Flag: Nebraska Territory and the Civil War, 1861-1867 at the group's January meeting.

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Two members of the **Los Angeles Corral** were the speakers at the January meeting. **Elizabeth Pomeroy** and **Nick Curry's** subject was "What Makes San Marino, San Marino?" Pomeroy has recently published the book San Marino: A Centennial 1913-2013 to which Curry contributed extensive research.

Editor's Note: Apparently a lot of publishing went on last year. Non-fiction books on a western theme, written by a Westerner, published in 2012, is eligible to be entered in the WI Award Competition. Forms have gone out to all "Reps" and also are on the web page. Deadline for entries is April 30.



Many of our member groups have special activities such as the annual Rendezvous of the **Los Angeles Corral**, above. Send us pictures of special events for your Posse or Corral for WI Extra. (Photo by Fred Marvel in 2004)

Travel season will soon be here. Westerners who are in the Oklahoma City area on Memorial Weekend might want to attend the Chuck Wagon Gathering & Childrens Cowboy Gathering at the **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum**, photo above. It is going to be held this year on May 25 & 26. Good food, lots of fun, activities for children. (Photo by Jim Argo)



Westerners International President and Sheriff of the **Indian Territory Posse**, Rodney Goddard, left, leads the 45 attendees at a holiday dinner in a lively game of Western Trivial Pursuit. The Posse entertained the **Chisholm Trail Corral** at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City in December. (Photos by Fred Marvel)

Each October WI is a participant at the **Western History Association** meeting where the WI Awards are presented. Above, Gordon Bakken of the **Los Angeles Corral** accepts the 2011 Head's Up Award for his group. (Photo provided)