

# Buckskin Bulletin

VOL. XLVII

NEWSLETTER OF WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL

Summer Issue 2014

[www.westerners-international.org](http://www.westerners-international.org)  
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## Buffalo Bill Watch Found

**By Pat Pelster**  
**Buffalo Bill Corral**

When it comes to finding and preserving Buffalo Bill memorabilia **Judy Herbst Brown**, a member of the **Buffalo Bill Corral**, North Platte, Nebraska, is a real dynamo. Her efforts "found" a watch presented to **Buffalo Bill Cody** by the **Prince of Wales** in 1887 when Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show was touring England. The Prince later became Great Britain's King Edward VII.

Judy distinctly remembered a group called The Friends of Buffalo Bill purchasing the ornate watch in the late 1970's for \$10,000 and wondered what had become of it. The Friends of Buffalo Bill had gradually



**Here is a view of the very ornate case of the Buffalo Bill watch. More pictures on page 3. (Photo courtesy of George Lauby, North Platte Bulletin.)**

disbanded over the years and many of the former members became members of the Buffalo Bill Corral.

In February of 2011 Herbst-Brown remembered the watch and called the **Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historic Park** and inquired about the watch. The Ranch is also known as **Scout's Rest Ranch**. The 4,000-acre ranch was purchased in 1886 by William Cody to house his show animals during the off season and provide a place of rest for the famous scout and showman. She was told Scout's Rest Ranch had three gold watches but not a Prince of Wales watch. She asked fellow members of the Lincoln County Historical Society and the corral if any had been members of the disbanded Friends of Buffalo Bill about the watch but to no avail.

In April of 2013 she discovered the Nebraska State Treasurer was in possession of unclaimed property belonging to the old Friends group. She called to ask, "Is it a watch?" She was told it was a substantial amount of money, not a watch. She began to think the watch was just a figment of her imagination!

Judy did not give up and diligently searched old newspaper articles finally finding a 1969 article which mentioned the watch had been re-gifted from Cody to a friend and the fact that the watch had been inscribed "Presented to Luke F. Healey by Col. W.F. Cody Buffa-

lo Bill Dec. 1, 1893". Scout's Rest Ranch had been in possession of the watch and did not know its history. The "lost" was found thanks to her efforts!

In September, 2013, with the help of the Lincoln County Historical Society and Buffalo Bill Corral, the friends of Buffalo Bill was reorganized. In January of 2014 Nebraska State Treasurer **Don Stenburg** traveled to North Platte to present the Friends of Buffalo Bill a check  
*(Continued on Page 3)*



**Pictured is new WI Executive Board member Bob Berry. He and two others, Brent Cummings and Harvey Pratt, who were unable to attend, were voted in at the recent WI Summer Board Meeting. For more about the meeting see Page 2 and WI Extra on our web page.**

# Questions About Future of WI

**By Kent McInnis**  
**WI Chairman**

Westerners International holds its **Fall Board Meeting** next month at the Western History Association conference in Newport Beach, California. We convene Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm in the Laguna/Sunset Room at the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa. I encourage any member of The Westerners to join us. I ask any WHA member on The Westerners Board of Directors to adjust their schedule to accommodate our meeting.

After two terms as WI president, **Rodney Goddard** is stepping down, so the board is looking for a Westerner to serve that presidential role as ambassador to our many corrals and posses.

We are also looking for interested Westerners willing to serve on the WI board. In past years board members have apparently fled west, never to be heard from again. With the full board's approval, I intend to replace them in October. There are other issues the board may want to know about.

**Dues collection** continues to be a worry, often like playing "whack-a-mole", simply because each year the new officers of many of the 59 US corrals must be reminded. Lack of "leadership continuity" will always create problems for dues compliance. We continue to be very tolerant dues collectors.

**Rosters** from each corral or posse are more current than previous years, but the same problems that cause dues non-compliance limit current information from coming to us. We must most often hand transcribe these rosters from a piece of paper to the computer. It is tedious and time-consuming. Only a couple of corrals send us by e-mail their rosters on the spreadsheet MS Excel. That simple e-mail can save us an hour of work.

At the **Home Ranch** we are all getting longer in the tooth. Health issues pop up frequently, but we plug along. In any given week there will be two or three of us trying to handle snail mail, e-mail, bank accounts, rosters, telephone calls, and various clerical requirements necessary to make sure we communicate with award entrants, award judges, sheriffs & "reps," occasional visitors, and the staff of our benefactor - the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

From a long-term perspective, the worries that keep your chairman up at night include the prospects of the year 2020. Who are the Westerners that will be running the Home Ranch? Who will take the reins as chairman, treasurer,

secretary, and *Buckskin Bulletin* editor? I worry less about who will be president, since it can be a Westerner outside the Home Ranch area. It is often a member out of state, or even out of country. The people necessary to run the Home Ranch need to step forward before there is a resignation, not after.

Looking at the big picture, the Home Ranch is doing many things very well. Being a bottom-line historian, I observed in the last three years your WI staff has made things better. Memberships are up. Revenues are up. Their dedication to our customers is up. Their imaginative horizons are wider. The offerings to the membership of new scholarships, available archival storage, and more effective communication with the membership is expanding. Relations with history groups, such as Phi Alpha Theta, Western Writers of America, and Western History Association, have improved tremendously. We owe a lot of thanks to **Burnis Argo, Mary Marvel, Rodney Goddard, and Don Reeves**, as well as many other temporary volunteers who have made the workload easier and kept the machine running. You are very lucky to have a staff so dedicated to the cause.



**WI Chairman Kent McInnis, foreground, conducts the WI Summer Board meeting. For more board meeting pictures go to [www.westerners-international.org](http://www.westerners-international.org) then click on *Bulletins*, go down to the end of this issue to the *WI Extra* pages. (Photo by Jim Argo)**



**Judy Herbst Brown, above, is the one who tracked down the watch. Above right, shows the inscription added when the watch was re-gifted. Below is a view of the watch face. (Watch photos courtesy of George Lauby, North Platte Bulletin)**



The **Los Angeles Corral** has really embraced the new technology available. We receive many corral newsletters by e-mail and some membership lists in Excel (which allows us to update their mailing lists on our computer in a matter of minutes) but LA is the first corral or posse we have seen that now accepts **PayPal** as a way to pay for dinner reservations when the reservations are made by computer. It must be fairly new, though, as the group lists the phone number of a member available if there are any questions.

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The **Denver Posse** held its annual business meeting in July. All members and guests were invited to attend but only Posse members were allowed to vote. As with a majority of the WI groups, "no shows" are charged for the dinner unless a cancellation is received.

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**San Dimas Corral** members must pay for their reservations ahead of time—the Saturday before a Wednesday meeting. Members mail in their checks and an envelope is provided.

<<<<<

The **Fort Abraham Lincoln Corral**, Bismarck-Mandan, ND, enjoyed a Pig Roast in July at the **Derle Marchus** river front home.

The August newsletter included several great pictures of the group enjoying the hospitality of Derle and Linda during the event. We wish they had sent a few to the **Home Ranch** to be included in the bulletin. Maybe next year they will. We always like to get pictures of corral activities.

## Buffalo Bill Watch Found

(Continued from Page 1)  
of nearly \$8,300.

Within days it was learned an auction of Buffalo Bill memorabilia would be held January 31, 2014. The items had been on loan for nearly 50 years to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming. Groups and individuals from North Platte cooperated to bring \$16,000 worth of Cody property back to North Platte. The newly purchased property resides at Scout's Rest Ranch and the Lincoln County Historical Museum both in North Platte, Nebraska, thanks to the efforts of Judy Herbst Brown!



## Pine Ridge Corral Meets

Members of the **Pine Ridge Corral**, Chadron, Nebraska, met for lunch in June, then drove to **Jack and Cindi Galt's** Slash TR Ranch near Crawford to observe how they work sheep with their Border Collies.

"Although Nebraska is most often thought of as cattle country, sheep have been raised here since the late 1850s. They were exhibited at the first territorial fair in 1859 and the 1860 census recorded 2,335 head in the territory," the newsletter revealed.

"Many of the early flocks were driven here from New Mexico. By 1890 more than half a million sheep were found in Nebraska. In 1943 there were more than 1.2 million sheep."

Alas, there has been a steady decline with 160,000 head in 1986 and in 2008 down to 85,000 ranking the state 20th in the nation.

# Corral Visits Ranch, School

*By Judy Pearce  
Santa Barbara Corral*

In May 64 members of the **Santa Barbara Corral** were guests of **Tina** and **Paul McEnroe** at their **Rancho La Purisima** in Buellton, California. The 1,000 acre spread is a remnant of an original 26,000 acre land grant deeded during the Mexican era in California. Cattle still range the pastures and the ranch also is home to the Warmblood horses raised by the McEnroes.

Before we were treated to the morning history program and an authentic Santa Maria barbecue lunch—served from a period chuck wagon, Paul delighted our members with the cattle-gathering skills of his champion Border Collies. Mounted on his black quarter horse Reno, Paul used only voice commands to direct the dogs to bring cattle from their pasture into a fenced arena and herd them through a series of obstacles.

Watching his ability on horseback (he rode Reno without a bridle) an uninformed observer might think Paul is a lifelong “born to the saddle” cowboy. However, we knew that before his ranch life Paul was involved in the tech industry. One of his many notable inventions was the Universal Product Code (UPC), developed when he led a team at IBM. We all know it simply as the bar code, used to register the price of just about everything we buy today.

After Paul’s demonstration, half of our group at a time boarded a refurbished school bus rented by our sheriff, **Janet Sands**, for the one mile ride to the McEnroes’ one room schoolhouse. The other half gathered near the barns to hear about the fascinating history of the ranch from Paul who’s a passionate history buff and an engaging speaker.

The original **Pleasant Valley School** was built in Santa Maria in 1869 and used until 1935. It is the oldest one-room school in Santa Barbara County. Long abandoned when the McEnroes discovered it in a field, the crumbling structure filled with mildew was relocated to Rancho La Purisima where a tremendous amount of love and years of hard work rehabilitated and furnished the school to how it would have looked around 1889-1900.

In a specially designed dress a 19th century schoolmarm might have worn, Tina, an award-winning teacher, greeted us ringing the original tower bell that called generations of children to class. Inside we were treated to a room where everything, down to the smallest detail, is antique, collected from one-room schools throughout the United States.

We squeezed into child-size period desks while Tina explained to us the main function of the school is to give children a “living histo-

ry” experience. At no cost, she invites elementary school teachers to bring their class for a full day. In advance she visits the children in their classroom to explain the experience  
*(Continued on page 7)*



**Tina McEnroe rings the bell at the historic schoolhouse while husband Paul prepares to demonstrate rounding up cattle, below. More pictures at end of this bulletin posted on our website: [www.westerners-international.org](http://www.westerners-international.org)**



# Prescott Corral Lists Activities

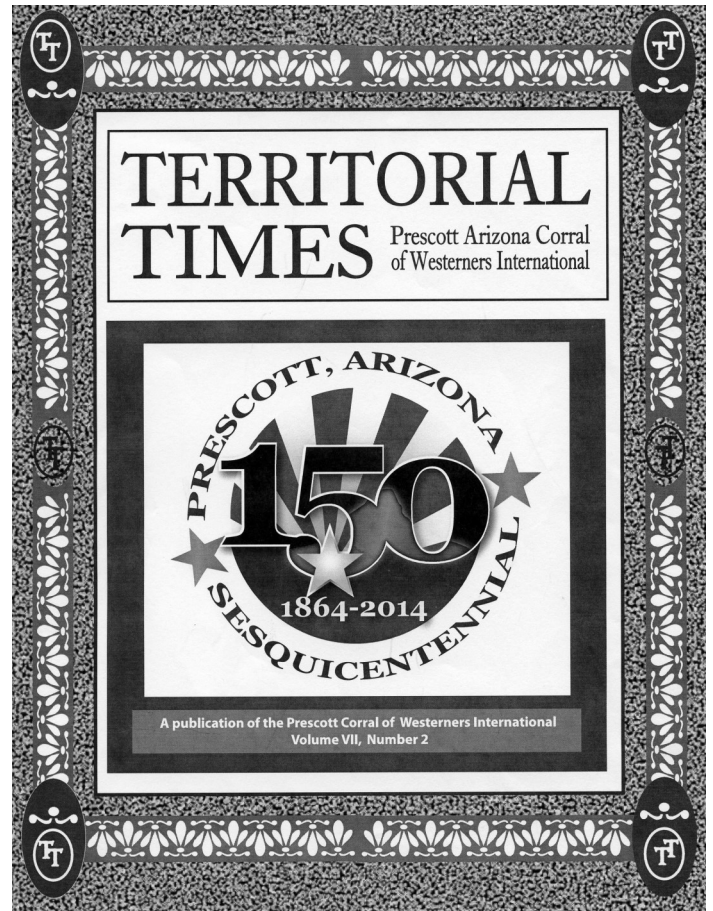
**Al Bates** of the **Prescott Corral** recently sent the Home Ranch a copy of their latest publication, **Territorial Times**, along with information about the group's latest activities.

"At the end of May the City of Prescott, Arizona, held a three-day celebration of the city's sesquicentennial anniversary (1864-2014). As part of the celebration the Prescott Corral hosted a downtown booth celebrating real history of the old west.

"In addition, the corral produced a special edition of their western history magazine (right) with the story of Prescott's and Arizona Territory's earliest years. The single article is divided into seven sections: 1) President Polk Creates the American Southwest, 2) Arizona Escapes from New Mexico, 3) Gold is Discovered in the Central Arizona Highlands, 4) General James Carleton Gets Involved 5) An Embarrassing Start to a Long Journey West, 6) The New Officers Take Charge and Prescott is Born and 7) Prescott Celebrates the Fourth of July," he wrote

It should be noted the group has been publishing *Territorial Times* twice a year since November 2007 and it is always a good read. On the editorial board are corral members Bates, who is editor; **Brad Courtney, Jay Eby, Bruce Fee, Fred Vail** and **Andy Wallace**.

In August, said Bates, the group participated in the day-long Eleventh Annual Western History Symposium which they co-sponsor each year with the **Sharlot Hall History Museum**. This year six presentations were made by recognized historians of the Southwest.



14th issue of Prescott Corral's publication

## Roundup

L'Olivier, French Restaurant is the meeting place for the **San Francisco Corral**. This is another group that pays ahead of time. Speaker at the June meeting was **Gary Noy**, who teaches history at Sierra Community College and an author. His subject was "Sierra Nevada Tales."

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**Central New Mexico Corral** has elected **Don Bullis** sheriff of this large corral which meets the third Thursday of each month from September through May.

Says Bullis, "The September meeting will offer a history of the Westerners, both nationally and in New Mexico. We have attracted numerous new members in recent years so I think an orientation meeting is important. Many of our long-standing members, including me, could also use a bit of a refresher course."

>>>>>

Speaker at the July meeting of **Southwest Vaqueros**, San Antonio, Texas, was **Cynthia Leal Massey**. Her intriguing topic was "Death of a Texas Ranger—A True Story of Murder and Vengeance on the Texas Frontier."

### Wanted:

**Pictures of Corral & Posse Activities for Bulletin and on our web page. Best are 4x6 or 5x7 color photos**

**Mail: 1700 NE 63, Oklahoma City, OK 73111**  
**Email: wihomeranch@gmail.com**



**Include names of people and places and of the person who took the pictures**

**By the way—  
You might want to use a newer model of camera!**

# Horse Soldier Museum

**By Douglas Hocking  
Bisbee Corral**

On May 17 the **Bisbee Corral** undertook one of our best trips yet. We drove over 100 miles to visit the Museum of the Horse Soldier at Trail Dust Town in Tucson, Arizona. The director, **Rae Whitley**, spent two and a half hours conducting us through the museum and explaining almost every artifact. And no one got bored!

He started with uniforms of the mounted officers. The first cavalry uniforms were modeled on the French. When they lost to the Prussians, we redesigned our uniforms adding spiked helmets. By the 1890s we were using pith helmets and dropped blue for khaki, looking very British.

After World War I, we asserted our independence and our cavalry dressed like Americans until World War II when the horses went away and the cavalry started riding tanks. We saw veterinary equipment, and the guns of "Flying Artillery." There were enlisted uniforms and we learned that musicians were paid more than anyone else. In an army made of men

speaking many languages entertainment was provided and messages passed by drum and bugle.

The museum holds one of the only Rough Rider uniforms in existence. The owner never made it to Cuba, getting ill along the way. The uniforms of those who suffered on the island from mosquito-borne illness were burned to rid them of bugs before they marched home. It must have been an interesting sight.

There were saddles officially adopted from the 1840s to 1940s and there were weapons and buffalo overcoats. One room housed a collection of artifacts unearthed at military posts all over Arizona. There was even a water-cooled machine gun suitable for home defense if you happen to have a six-man mounted crew handy.

It was a wonderful tour and we enjoyed ourselves and learned a lot. Afterwards we adjourned to the Pinnacle Peak Restaurant and had some really wonderful steaks.



**Rare Rough Rider uniforms are pictured above. Lower photo shows some of the corral members listening to a talk by museum director Rae Whitley. More photos on the WI Extra, an on-line only addition to each bulletin. (Photos by Douglas Hocking.)**



## **WI Mercantile**

**Bola Ties are back!**

**\$15**



**Available from the  
Home Ranch Office**

Westerners International  
1700 NE 63rd Street  
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# Garden of the Sun Corral Takes Potluck

Members of the **Garden of the Sun Corral**, Fresno, California, held its annual potluck dinner once again at the **Rockin-A-Ranch** owned by Posse members **Don** and **Martha Ashton**. After a tour of the ranch, about 40 members enjoyed a potluck dinner in the main ranch house followed by a viewing of the original Lone Ranger TV movie.

The picture below shows the ranch "main street". Right photo, **Michael Cobb** is presented the dinner raffle prize by **Tony Herrera** and Sheriff **Shirley Main**.

Proceeds from the monthly raffles are used to provide funds for the Corral's annual scholarship to a local student majoring in history.



## Corral Visits Ranch, Old School

*(Continued from Page 4)*

and what will be involved, and fits them for the 1900 era costumes she has created for students to wear. On the big day the youngsters walk to school up a hill from the ranch gate. Their lunches are wrapped in paper or cloth—no plastic or modern wrapping! They learn from authentic McGuffey readers and write on real slate blackboards. During recess they play games popular over 100 years ago. Tina makes sure the little ones write thank you notes; many add, "It was the best day of my life." Tina—whose passion for literacy has also driven her, with Paul, to establish the McEnroe Reading Clinic at UCSB's Gervirtz Graduate School of Education,—thinks it is equally important to provide today's students with an appreciation of history. Who knows?—some of the students could be our next generation of Westerners.

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### **HOME RANCH BUNCH**

Kent & Cheryl McInnis, Don Reeves, Rodney Goddard, Fred & Mary Marvel, Ed Kelsay, David & Shirley Carter, Bill Deupree, John & Melvena Heisch, Jim & Burnis Argo, Sandra & Dennis Noble, John Marshall, Bob Berry, Brent Cummings and Harvey Pratt

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## From the Editor ~

We have received word of the passing of a former editor of your *Buckskin Bulletin*. **Midge Sherwood**, writer and historian, was the editor when your present one took over and a lovely person she was. She would phone from California from time to time and we would talk. She always began by saying, "This is Midge Sherwood, do you remember me?" And I would say "Of course I remember you" as she was not the kind of person one could soon forget. This exchange always made me smile.

Then she would begin telling me what all she had been doing. And it was plenty as Midge was quite a busy lady. One of her crowning achievements was the researching of California press from its beginning in

1846 to 1900, along with **Valerie Mathes** and **John Robinson**, in preparation for a series of volumes on California history.

Another was the founding of the **Huntington Westerners**. This came about during the press research project when Midge said she thought there should be a forum on this fascinating subject which Mathes and Robinson encouraged her to develop. So the Huntington Westerners became corral No. 92 of Westerners International.

She was one of those Westerners who was certainly a "Living Legend" though no one thought to nominate her.

Midge will be greatly missed.

*Burnis Argo*

## Pahaska Corral Shares Idea

One of the best parts of the job of editor is getting to read all the meeting notices, publications etc. from all the member groups who send them in. If your corral or posse does not, it should.

In the May meeting notice of the **Pahaska Corral** was an article titled "How Many Wyoming Historic Sites Have You Visited?" Several of these were listed with the suggestion to pack a picnic and head on out to visit some of them.

A idea that occurred to us was to make such a list for your state to pass out at a meeting. Members could check off ones they have seen. The winner could get a prize or at least some notoriety! All would have a list of places to visit.





***"Travlin' in Style" was the Santa Barbara Corral during their recent trip to Rancho La Purisima, above. Right is the one-room Pleasant Valley School relocated to their ranch land by Paul & Tina McEnroe.***

## *A Westerners Photo Gallery*



***The two other watches at Scouts Rest Ranch were the Johnny Baker watch, above top, and William Sweeney watch.***

***Close view of the Buffalo Bill Watch  
(Photos courtesy George Lauby, North Platte Bulletin)***



## *WI Summer Board Meeting*



***Kent McInnis, Chairman, calls for approval of the minutes, above. Also pictured, right to left, Dennis and Sandi Noble and John Marshall. Studying the financial report, above left, is Ed Kelsay. Mary Marvel, treasurer, below, explains the financial report as Bill and Janie Deupree follow along. Ann Marshall is pictured at lower left (Photos by Jim Argo)***





## Museum of the Horse Soldier



*Among the many interesting exhibits at the Museum of the Horse Soldier, Tucson, Arizona, are a buffalo coat, left, a collection of buckles, buttons and cartridges, above, and a number of artifacts uncovered at various military posts, lower left. Also of interest is the styling of uniforms at different times including the Prussian-style uniforms—pre 1890, lower photo. Always popular are exhibits of cartridge holders and weapons, below. (Photos by Doug Hocking)*

