

Buckskin Bulletin

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NEWSLETTER OF WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL

FALL ISSUE 2014

www.westerners-international.org
Check WI web-site to read the Bulletin on-line

Scholarship Winner Is Named

This year the Executive Board of Westerners International initiated a new scholarship to benefit members of our student corrals.

Recipient of the first scholarship is **Rebekah Wagenbach**, a graduate student at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, member of the **Triple R Corral**. The new \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a student member of a Westerner corral or posse which is under the sponsorship of an institute of higher learning and is based on academic and leadership excellence. The academic sponsor for each group selects the nominee.



Rebekah Wagenbach proudly shows the scholarship certificate just presented her by WI Executive Board Chairman, Kent McInnis, at the recent Western History Association meeting in Newport Beach, California. Since she has an aunt living in the area, Wagenbach was able to accept her award in person. (Photo by Cheryl McInnis)



Walter Brennan is one of the movie stars included in a special exhibit at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Story is on Page 6.

According to Shawn Holliday, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Graduate Studies/American Studies at the school, Rebekah became involved with organizing a corral at the school when one of the course assignments last year was to form a Westerners Corral on the campus to allow undergraduate and graduate students to study the history and culture of the American West.

She was actively involved

in the process, presenting information to the NWOSU Student Government for formal club approval.

"She did such a good job the proposal was approved with no questions," Holliday said in his nomination.

As the first president of her corral, Wagenbach has been working to make the organization more visible on campus and in the community, has planned fund-raising

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From the Chairman ~ Kent McInnis

It is always a goal of Westerners to introduce historians to a possibly new concept - that Western history can be fun. Thus, in mid-October four of us went to the **Western History Association** conference in Newport Beach, California. Westerners, too, exercise rigorous research. We sometimes challenge or correct each other concerning what is written and said. But we also apply levity to our proceedings. It was with that in mind that former WI treasurer and executive board member, **John Marshall**, and his wife **Ann**, along with my wife **Cheryl**, also an executive board member, joined me for this event.

The interest historians had in becoming members of Westerners was gratifying. We even had one corral representative come up to announce that, contrary to our website, the **Colorado Corral** in Denver was certainly not a "dry camp." Most gratifying was this member's question: "Where can I send in our back dues?" Yes, conferences can be quite illuminating. We also had two individuals come up to ask us how to form a new posse or corral? Good things are happening to Westerners International.

We took great pleasure this year in handing out our reward plaques and certificates, some with checks attached. We continue to have a great relationship with members of **Phi Alpha Theta**, National History Honor Society. This year we not only supported their society with \$1000 to fund their best

doctoral dissertation, won by Brian Leech, but Westerners International presented its first ever \$1000 scholarship to a member of a university-sponsored chapter of WI. **Rebekah Wagenbach**, graduate student and Westerner from Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Oklahoma, came all the way to California to pick up her certificate and scholarship check. We Westerners were honored that she came.

This year at WHA your chairman joined with **Los Angeles Corral's Abe Hoffman** and **Brian Dillon** to share the stage at the Westerners International-sponsored session. My fellow presenters did a fantastic job of representing Westerners International. One consistent comment from attendees was that our topics were a welcome shift from overworked themes often discussed at history gatherings. We certainly hoped to be outside the box.

Westerners International is an organization which can be the catalyst for new ways of thinking about history. I often find that novel ideas come from those who aren't educated to think that something can't possibly be. Let's continue to be that spark which ignites new ways for us to entertain others, to inform the curious, and to discuss with fellow historians about our North American West.



Cheryl McInnis, left, and Ann Marshall are taking care of business in the Westerners International booth at the recent meeting of WHA in Newport Beach, California. A list of the winners of the WI Awards are on page 4. If you are interested in seeing more pictures from the meeting check our WI Extra, which are pages that can only be seen on-line. Go to our website, listed at the top of page one, then click on Bulletins and go down to the end of this issue to view them. (Photo by Kent McInnis)

Student Scholarship Awarded

(Continued from Page 1)

events and visits to historic sites. She also is working with students in developing such programs as "The Development of the Cowboy Song in the Cherokee Outlet" and "Oklahoma's First Black Towns: the Economic, Political and Social Impact upon Freedmen and Their Descendants."

Also presenting an exceptional candidate for the scholarship was the **West Elk Wranglers**, student corral at Western State Colorado University, Gunnison.

It is the hope of the board of WI that students such as these will be the ones to go on and join and form the adult Westerner corrals and posses of the future.

These student Westerners are full of ideas and energy. Let's encourage them to keep up the good work and offer our support. **(By Burnis Argo, Editor)**

Westerners Excel!

Anne Collier, member of the **San Dimas** and **Los Angeles Corrals**, has asked to give a special Thank-You to **Denver Corral** member, **Jeff Broome**.

"At the Wild West History Association Roundup, held in July in Denver, prior to my talk the hotel experienced some technical difficulties and who should ride in on his white horse to save the day but Jeff Broome," she wrote.

And she added, "Jeff was the recipient of the 2013

Six-Shooter Award for Outstanding article in a general western publication."

In addition, Collier won a Six-Shooter award for Outstanding WWA Journal article. Another

Denver Corral member, John Boessenecker won the Six-Shooter award for Outstanding Article in a Historical/Scholarly Publication for his article "Peter Gabriel-Gunfighting Lawman of the Southwestern Frontier."

Broome's article was "Wild Bill's Brawl with Two of Custer's Troopers" and Collier's was "Big Nose Kate and Mary Katherine Cummings. Same Person. Different Lives." Congratulations to all and thanks to Westerner Seiss for taking the photo.



Anne Collier, left, and Jeff Broome at the Wild West Roundup. (Photo by Gary Seiss, Tucson Corral)



"The Post Offices Followed the People to Indian Territory and Oklahoma" is the subject of this interesting sounding program given for the **South Canadian Cross-Timbers Corral**, Norman, Oklahoma. Speaker was **Joe Crosby**, president of the Oklahoma City Stamp Club and Chair of Friends of the Charles M. Russell Center, Norman.

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Huntington Corral met in November to hear a program by **Ned Reed** titled "Don Benito Wilson: Important for so Many Reasons." Wilson, who was the grandfather of Gen. George Patton, was a "pioneer, beaver-trapper, trader, grizzly bear hunter, Indian fighter, justice of the peace, farmer, rancher, politician, horticulturist, vintner, real estate entrepreneur and one of the great landholders in Southern California." Also, Mount Wilson was named for him.

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October meeting of the **Fort Abraham Lincoln Corral**, Bismarck-Mandan, ND, featured a talk by **Butch Thunderhawk**, a Hunkpapa Lakota artist who teaches tribal arts at the United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck. In 2001 Native American art pieces were created by him and his students for Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. His art work is displayed at the Peabody Art Museum at Harvard University.

2013 Award Winners

Co-Founders "Best Book" Award

1st Place: Roger L. Nichols, Adobe Corral, Tucson, Arizona
Warrior Nations: The United States and Indian Peoples
University of Oklahoma Press

2nd Place: John L. Kessell, Durango Corral, Colorado
Miera y Pacheco: A Renaissance Spaniard in Eighteenth-Century New Mexico
University of Oklahoma Press

3rd Place: Jeff Broome, Denver Posse, Colorado
Cheyenne War: Indian Raids on the Roads to Denver, 1864-1869
Aberdeen Books and Logan County Historical Society

Coke Wood Award for Monographs & Articles

1st Place: James E. Potter, Pine Ridge Corral, Chadron, Nebraska

2nd Place: Brian Dervin Dillon, Richard H. Dillon, & John Dervin Yi An Dillon, Los Angeles Corral, California

3rd Place: Brian Dervin Dillon, Los Angeles Corral, California

Philip A. Danielson Award for Best Programs

1st Place: Steve Lech, Los Angeles Corral, California

2nd Place: Leslie Goddard, Chicago Corral, Illinois

3rd Place: Al Bates, Prescott Corral, Arizona

Fred Olds Western Poetry Award

1st Place: Tim Heflin, Los Angeles Corral, California

2nd Place: Gary Turner
Los Angeles Corral

Head's Up Award

Corrals formed prior to 1973
Prescott Corral, Prescott, Arizona
Tom Collins, Sheriff

Corrals formed 1973 and later
Bisbee Corral, Bisbee, Arizona
Doug Hocking, Sheriff

Overseas Corrals
English Westerners Society
Francis Taunton, Sheriff

New Corrals Are Formed

The **Home Ranch** is very pleased to announce we now have three new groups up and running!

The 17th of December, 2013, a group of "Congenial Cowpokes" met in **Wichita Falls, Texas**, to form a corral. Though they were timely in letting us know they had organized the communication to the Home Ranch was either misdirected in the mail or fell off the computer and we didn't know about them until this Fall. Apologies extended!

August 20, 2014, the members of the new **Northwest Montana Posse** of Westerners announced they were looking for members and had set their first meeting for the 3rd week in October, according to executive coordinator Ronald M. Beard.

Also August 20 the new **Casper Posse** of Casper, Wyoming formed and even sent in the programs for their first three meetings.

It should also be told that the **Colorado Corral**, Denver, which the Home Ranch thought was in Dry Camp was not. We had heard nothing from them for a few years and they were wondering why we never sent anything their way! All straightened out now and welcome back to those members, even though they never went away.

Welcome to our new groups and we urge the rest of you to stay in touch so we don't have a repeat of the "Dry Camp Incident."



Members of the Kansas City Posse, above, on tour at the Jesse James Farm & Museum. In the background is the house. Below, bottom, is the final resting place of Jesse and his wife Zerelda. Picture below, top, is of his original burial site on the farm. (Photos provided by the Kansas City Posse)



Kansas City Posse Takes Field Trip

Members of the **Kansas City Posse**, Missouri, met in September for a "field trip" to the Jesse James Farm and Museum, Kearney, Missouri.

After viewing a film they toured the James family cabin. According to **Deborah Buckner**, posse member, a highlight of the cabin tour was the kitchen where a bomb hurled by Pinkerton agents in an effort to rouse Jesse and Frank James from the house rolled into the fireplace. It exploded killing young Archie James and cost the James Boys' mother, Zerelda, her right arm. Jesse and Frank were not in the cabin at the time.

The tour continued to Jesse James' original grave site on the farm property and his final resting place in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Kearney.

The Jesse James Farm & Museum is owned and operated as an historic site by Clay County, Missouri.

Wanted:

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

1700 NE 63, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111

wihomeranch@gmail.com



Include names of people and places and that of the photographer.



Don Reeves, who is the secretary of Westerners International, also is a curator at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City where he holds the McCasland Chair of Cowboy Culture. Below is one of the many displays you can see in this exhibit hall. (Photo by Jim Argo)

Let's Take a Tour of the

Western Performers Gallery

By Don Reeves

The origins of the Western film genre are presented throughout this colorful room by means of an illustrated storyboard accompanying casework filled with memorabilia from the cowboy heroes. A century of these films has filled the public imagination with visions of gallant men riding the range and righting wrongs. These fictional heroes became so popular that the line between the real and the imaginary cowboy has been permanently blurred in the public's mind.

The Western film genre and the vast literature on the West have left a rich legacy, but the goal of most

cinematographers and writers has been entertainment and artistic creativity, not history. Published in 1902, **Owen Wister's** popular novel, *The Virginian*, helped define the Western genre in its first 50 years. A generalized Western hero evolved-- a self-reliant, masculine character often portrayed as a man fleeing the constraints of civilization in the East.

Edwin S. Porter's *The Great Train Robbery*, released in 1903, is regarded as the first dramatic feature film and the first "Western." Complete with outlaws, a handsome sheriff and a chase scene, it set a pattern for later films in which the cowboy rarely demonstrated his ability with a rope or his savvy as a cattleman. These "cow-less cowboys" relied on their skill with a gun and survival of the fittest was the rule.

Though the Western takes its name from a geographical region, it encompasses a mythical landscape, an ideological terrain. The Western Performers Gallery presents the West of Hollywood, and it stands as a tribute to the men and women who contributed to this unique American film genre.



Did you know:

Walter Brennan won three Academy Awards and was nominated for a fourth one?

Roy Rogers & Dale Evans got married in Oklahoma?

Glenn Ford was born in Quebec City, Canada?

Jimmy Stewart worked two summers as a magician's assistant?

Gene Autry has a town named after him?

If you are ever in the area of Oklahoma City, don't miss the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Center. It's a great way to spend a day! You can see more pictures of the gallery in the WI Extra on our web page.



"The Hole in the Head Gang", left to right Dee Cordry, John Marshall and Bill Welge of the Indian Territory Posse, Oklahoma City, are also known as the membership and marketing team of the posse. They met recently to formulate some plans. (Photo provided)

Trailing The West

By Shebby Lee

The top 100 events for 2015 in North America have been announced by the American Bus Association. And I want to take a little time to crow about the top choice, which happens to be in my backyard. It is the annual **Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup**, near Rapid City, SD.

The selection process is rigorous and takes a humongous committee a full year to weigh the merits of the nominations, wrangle over their favorites and winnow the list down. That's one committee I'm glad I'm not on.

We (Shebby Lee Tours) have hosted a Black Hills destinations tour during the roundup for many years now and have grown very fond of the quiriness of the program. There are no grandstands, the people are enclosed in a fence and we more or less follow along after the buffalo. It is a buffalo pasture, after all, and they are in charge.

The roundup has been listed in the Top 100 for several years but being rated NUMBER ONE by your peers is something special.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For information on this end-of-summer event, go to Shebby's website: www.shebbyleetours.com

Honor is Announced

Vern Gorzitze, "Rep" for the **Utah Westerners** is always on the lookout for something of interest to send me by e-mail. Recently it was a picture of the largest pumpkin I have ever seen, grown by his neighbor. But for this item of interest he didn't even have to go as far as next door—the subject was right in his own house.

His wife, **Ilene**, a former school teacher and long-time volunteer in Salt Lake City schools, was named, along with 10 Utah educators, to receive a \$10,000 Huntsman Award.

According to a newspaper article when the 82-year-old retired she just kept on teaching—for free. During her career she taught physical education and health and served as the athletic director at a Salt Lake City high school. Why did she keep on with the work?



Ilene Gorzitze

"Teachers are busy enough and I wanted to help," she told the reporter.

Understandably proud, her husband said though she isn't a paying member of the corral she might as well be as she often attends meetings with him and has become good friends with many of the members.

She does seem to have one regret about the award. She can't use the money for "her kids."

"No PE equipment. I have to spend it on me."

By Your Editor

Westerners International

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WI Mercantile

Does your corral or posse give a gift of some kind to your speakers or members who do something special or whom you just want to honor? Perfect for such things are our Lucite square paperweight or round speaker's gift/paperweight, both featuring images of Old Joe, shown above. The round ones are \$10 and the square, \$8.

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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



WESTERN PERFORMERS GALLERY



There are portraits of Western performers such as Glenn Ford, above, as well as articles of clothing and movie posters, top. Memorabilia relating to Roy Rogers, Dale Evans and Gene Autry are among those featured in the many display cases, right.



Walter Brennan, one of America's most beloved Western actors, also was a member of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's Board of Directors until his passing in 1974. The oil portrait by Norman Rockwell captures the gentle, grandfatherly character we remember. Near by are the hat and canvas jacket worn for the live portrait sitting. Ed Bohlin of North Hollywood made this well-preserved saddle for Bob Steele, a silent film cowboy star. Steele was in need of money late in his career and left this saddle with Brennan as collateral for a loan but it was never retrieved. Brennan's three Oscars for best supporting actor also can be seen in the case — **Don Reeves**



Photos by Jim Argo



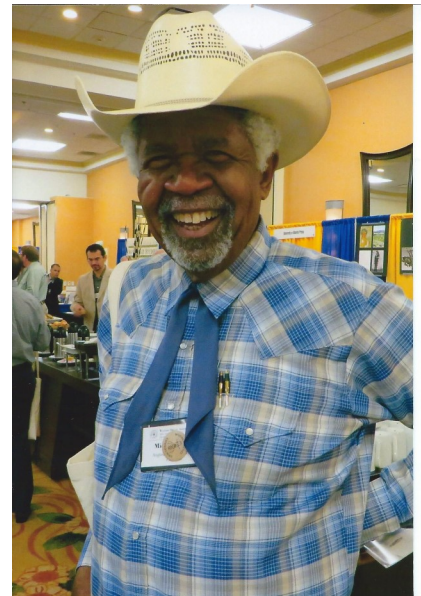
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Members of the three corrals in Oklahoma meet at the WI booth, upper right. Left to right, **Kent McInnis**, member of the Chisholm Trail Corral & Indian Territory Posse, **Byron Price**, South Canadian Cross-Timbers Corral, and **John Marshall**, Indian Territory Posse. Photo right, McInnis and **Brian Dillon**, Los Angeles Corral, prepare to give their session at WHA. Photo below right **Michael Searles**, Augusta State University, Georgia, enjoys a trip around the Exhibit Hall. Below, winners of books at the Silent Auction pay for the items they won at the WI reception and awards program.



Photos by Cheryl McInnis





Some Award Winners



Receiving his third place Coke Wood certificate is **Brian Dervin Dillon, Los Angeles Corral**, above. The awards were presented by Kent McInnis, left. Top picture, right, is **Tim Heflin**, also of the **LA Corral**, winner of the Fred Olds Award for best Western Poetry. Winner of the Phi Alpha Theta Scholarship for best doctoral dissertation, University of Wisconsin, is **Brian Leech**, right photo, shown here with **Judy Austin** who presented his award. Below is **Paul F. Clark** who accepted the Old Joe Plaque for **Steve Lech, LA Corral**, who placed first in the Danielson Award Competition. Lower right photo are **Roger L. Nichols** and his wife, **Marilyn, Adobe Corral**, Tucson, AZ. Nichols placed first in the Best Book competition. (Photos by Cheryl McInnis)

