

Buckskin Bulletin

VOL. XLVIII

NEWSLETTER OF WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL

ISSUE 2, 2015

www.westerners-international.org
Check WI website to read the Bulletin on-line
Email: wihomeranch@gmail.com

Coming to a Computer Near You!



And Our New WI President

There is lots to report from the **WI Home Ranch!** First, we have a new president for WI—**Juti Winchester**, from the **Old Hays City Corral** in Hays, Kansas. Read more about and from her on page 2.

Second, is our newly refurbished and updated web site, the Home Page lead picture shown above. A lot of thought and long hours and research and discussion has gone into this project by the committee appointed to oversee it. Taking on the task were **Don Reeves, Burnis Argo, Jim Argo** and **Fred Marvel**, working with web designer **Sharon Kasper**. Drawn into the project was **Mary Marvel** who spent hours checking and correcting our 100 Best Book List and Active and Dry Camp Corrals lists.

We have included over 58 pictures showing WI members and their activities. These will be changed out from time to time and we will be relying on our various corrals, both US and International, to provide us with good, colorful images to choose from. We hope you like our efforts.



Juti Winchester

From the Chairman

David Carter and his wife, **Shirley Croft**, have been loyal members of the Westerners International Executive Committee for almost two decades. For nearly every board meeting the two made the trek from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Oklahoma City to attend and to share their ideas. At first only David served on the board, but it seemed obvious to the board that Shirley, who attended every meeting, deserved a vote as well.

For four years David served as our Westerners president, traveling with Shirley all over the country, from the **Potomac Corral** in Washington, D.C. to the far western corrals that pepper the landscape in the West. They timed their visits to coincide with the meeting times of these corrals and posses, bringing the Home Ranch message to our members in the trenches.

The two have always provided levity, insight and hard work for Westerners. Now they announce to the board that they are hanging up their spurs to focus on other projects closer to home. The local activities they will continue to support would make anyone's resume look impressive.

As sad as I feel about losing such wonderful friends to the executive board, David and Shirley deserve our thanks for a job well done. They quit while at the top of their game, which is a fine way to be remembered. So we say "thank you" to these fine folks as they return to their own **Fort Smith Corral** to enjoy more active times near their home. Till we meet again.



David Carter, left, and Kent McKinnis, right in a 2008 photo from the Westerners International Archives.

From the New WI President

First, let's thank **Rodney Goddard** for his work as President of this outfit for the past four years. He has pulled up stakes and moved to Minnesota; I note that there is not currently an active corral in that state so perhaps we have something to look forward to seeing! As for me, I am equally astounded and honored to have been asked to be President of this fine organization, and when the surprise wears off I hope I'll have a real and lasting contribution to show for being chosen.

My first Westerners meeting was in 2000, when then-Sheriff **Mike Wurtz** asked me to do a talk for the **Prescott Corral**. Since then, I've been a member of three others – **Garden of the Sun Corral** in Fresno, California, **Pahaska Corral** in Cody, Wyoming, and now the **Old Hays City Corral** in Hays, Kansas. One thing I've observed about all of the Westerners groups I've been in contact with is the impact they can have on their local community. Prescott Corral gave research grants to local historians. Garden of the Sun Corral put forward one of their members as a candidate for Poet Laureate of California. Pahaska Corral sent a student to the National History Day competition in Washington, D. C., they gave numerous small scholarships to nearby Northwest College, and they made yearly contributions to local charities at Christmas. They funded these projects through a monthly book raffle, a cussing jar (to which my husband made many deposits), and contributions by members.

There are non-monetary ways that your corral can help your local community. If there is a preservation project in town, you can lend your support by writing letters or attending public meetings. You can donate a volume of Western history or literature to your public library. As individuals, you can attend historical society events and meetings. These kinds of contact can help your corral as well as your community – ways that you can be visible, and it will give you an opportunity to lasso new members.

If your corral has a project they're supporting, or a unique way of raising money, send a chirp to the Home Ranch and share it with the rest of us, so we can applaud your efforts and be inspired by you. –**Juti Winchester**.

Kent McKinnis

What's in Your Backyard?

Bisbee Corral Tours Tombstone

By Doug Hocking

On March 22, 2015, the **Bisbee Corral** spent the day in Tombstone led by Trail Boss **Matt Greenway**.

Far too many people react to Tombstone as "just so fake." But there is a real Western Town preserved here once you get beyond the silly gunfights. And the gunfights? What the heck, they're having fun and having fun with history. More to the point, there is a great deal that is real to be found. More and more local folks are dressing in period costume, the town looks much like its 1880s photos and there are some fine museums. This is an important part of the old West.

Tombstone was founded in 1877 with a silver strike. It was instrumental in bringing Arizona to the attention of the nation and in opening the land. Before Tombstone, Arizona consisted of Tucson, Tubac, Prescott and Yuma and a lot of "empty." Everything changed once silver was found by Ed Schieffelin. For a while, this was the biggest town between El Paso and San Diego and the most modern. It had telephones and electric lights almost as soon as they were invented. There were fancy restaurants that offered oysters and fish fresh from the Gulf of California.

We started at the 1882 Courthouse. While built too late for the Earps to have appeared there, it is now a museum that offers a wonderful glimpse into Tombstone's real history. The corral spent hours looking before we wandered up

town to the Birdcage Theatre. The sign says it was built in 1881, but it might have been 1882. Nonetheless, the theatre was host to Eddie Foy, Little Egypt, Sarah Bernhardt, Lilly Langtry and other greats. This was an important theatre in an important town.

From there we did lunch at the Longhorn, then wandered over to Red Marie's Bookshop where historian Ben Treywick entertained and sold books. Across the street are the offices of the *Epitaph*. As John Clum said when he started his newspaper, "Every Tombstone must have its Epitaph." It is now a fine museum of printing history where you can buy old numbers of the paper.

We walked down Fremont Street passing the site of the *Gunfight Near the OK Corral* as gunfire erupted for the fourth time that day on the other side of the wall and continued on to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the first



*Stolen ship's chandelier, more pictures on **WI Extra**. Photos by Doug Hocking.*

protestant church in Arizona. The stained glass is chipped with a bullet hole, the chandeliers were stolen from a clipper ship and there's a crib (bordello) out behind the rectory. It is Tombstone after all. Rev. Peabody raised money to build the adobe church in the saloons, drunks are always happy to contribute to a good cause. He went on to found Groton School. It was a great day in a fun town and there is much more real history to see.



Some Bisbee Corral members on the tour of the town of Tombstone.

Meet Living Legend #59

Your Editor finds herself in somewhat of an awkward situation. For several years she has been urging our corrals and posesses to nominate deserving members for the Living Legend series. Last April a corral did, and your Editor found herself suddenly hearing some oddly familiar information from the two corral members who were nominating--her. Definitely an "out of body experience." And since she is the one who approves the nominees--was it even legal? But since the Chisholm Trail Corral declared it "a done deal" here is Living Legend No. 59:

**By Mary Marvel
and Sandi Noble**

As members of Westerners when you read your *Buckskin Bulletin* you probably notice from time to time that certain members are honored as Living Legends. We think we have a Living Legend right here in our own **Chisholm Trail Corral**.

Burnis Argo is a fourth generation Oklahoman whose interest in Oklahoma history began with her four grandparents and two of her great grandparents.

Her paternal grandparents moved from Kansas to the Osage Nation in Indian Territory after the 1893 Land Run.

In the late 1890s her maternal grandparents and great grandparents moved up to Western Oklahoma Territory from Texas. It was hearing stories and reading written accounts from both sides of her family about pioneering westward that gave her a keen interest in history.

A graduate of Oklahoma State University, as was her father, sister, several cous-

ins, two sons and a daughter-in-law, she put her BA in English to work as a feature writer in the Women's Department of *The Daily Oklahoman* and *Oklahoma City Times* newspapers. After 10 years she quit to free lance and rear two sons and a husband!

In 1991 she agreed to co-author a book with Oklahoma historian and Westerner **Kent Ruth**. Ruth wrote the introduction to "Oklahoma Historical Tour Guide", then unfortunately died, leaving her to complete the project. More recently she was a major contributor to a book on the steam train photographs taken by her father Preston George, a well-known photographer of steam trains in Oklahoma and Colorado during the late 1930s to the early 1950s.

In 1980 her husband, Jim, was joining the **Indian Territory Posse**, so she became a member of the **Oklahoma City Women's Posse**.

When the latter went into dry camp with the organization of the **Chisholm Trail Corral** in 1990, both Argos became charter members.

In 1992 she was recruited to take on

the *Buckskin Bulletin* as well as handle the day to day activities of the WI Office and especially to round up the many volunteers "promised" by the Men's Posse when the Home Ranch was moved from Tucson to Oklahoma City. She got the help of a few but handled most of the duties by herself. Counting the early membership in the Women's Posse she has given the last 35 years to Westerners and is a well-known goodwill ambassador for the organization, we believe.

She is a long-time member of the Oklahoma Historical Society, served 12 years on the board of the Edmond, Oklahoma, Historical Society and has worked on projects for the Edmond Historical Preservation Trust as well as belonging, past and present, to several genealogy groups.

It should be noted she is only the third woman to be a Living Legend!



Pictured, left to right, are Mary Marvel, Burnis Argo and Sandi Noble. (Photo by Cheryl McInnis)

At the May meeting of the **Boulder Corral** the group celebrated the 100th anniversary of Rocky Mountain National Park with a history of automobile tourism to the park, starting with the Stanley Steamer.

Speaker was **Lee Whiteley**, a fourth-generation Coloradan. He and his wife, **Jane**, are both members of the **Denver Posse** and the authors of five books on early transportation systems of the West. They are associate producers of the PBS documentary "Paving the Way; the National Park-to-Park Highway."

Peter H. Hassrick, director emeritus and senior scholar, at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, was the speaker at the April meeting of the **Pahaska Corral**.

Subject of his talk was American artist John Mix Stanley. The Center is opening a major show featuring the work of this artist this summer.

Speaker at the April meeting of the **Central New Mexico Corral** was member **Merideth Hmura**, author of "Mountain View Ranch: 1915-1945." She told the group about the early history of the upper Pecos and the Mountain View Ranch.

John G. Neihardt Corral met in April to hear a program by **Larry Pauley**. His topic was "Toll Roads in Boone County."

In March **David Sapp** discussed the Boonslick Trail, the first road from St. Charles to (Old) Franklin which ended where the Santa Fe Trail began.



"Vinyards and Orchards: Commercialization in the Pueblo of Los Angeles" was the topic of the April meeting of the **Huntington Westerners**. Speaker was **Linda Mollno**.

Fort Abraham Lincoln Corral enjoyed a Summer Picnic with live Cowboy Music in June. The group met at Buckstop Junction for the chicken supper. **Vern Erickson** and **Les Vaagen** performed the program on the history of music.

Also enjoying a musical program were members of the **Chicago Corral** at their April meeting. Giving the program was **Ed Metz** who traced the development of Native American flutes and played the oldest Native melody from the 1600s.

San Francisco Corral members enjoyed their "annual outing" in May. The group went to the Jack London Square, meeting at the USS Potomac, presidential yacht of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, for a tour. Following lunch at Lungomare, they retreated to Heinhold's First and Last Chance Saloon, with an opportunity to tour Jack London's cabin next door.

"The Life and Sights of Abraham Lincoln" was the subject of the talk by **Bob Ihsen** at the **San Dimas Corral** meeting in June.

His photographic tour included Lincoln landmarks in Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois in addition to the home of Mary Todd and the Washington D.C. sights relating to him.

Utah Westerners met in May for a program by **Donna Poulton**. Topic was "At a Glance, Cody, Wyoming." Since the group's field trip in June was to Wyoming the talk was a good introduction to some of the things they would be seeing, and gave the members not going an opportunity to enjoy some of the sights they would be missing.

Los Angeles Corral July Roundup was a program on "The Living Legacies of Spain in the North American West: Law, Natural Resources and International Treaties in the Borderlands." Speaker was **Michael M. Brescia** who is a specialist in Mexican and borderlands history.

Wanted:

Pictures of Corral and Posse activities for Bulletin and for our new web page. Best are 4x6 or 5x7 color photos. These can be sent by email:

wihomeranch@gmail.com

or regular mail:

**1700 NE 63rd
Oklahoma City, OK 73111**

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





Jedediah Smith Corral Meets

Along with their dues and updated mailing list the **Jedediah Smith Corral** added a report on their March luncheon meeting. Correspondent was "Rep" **Carol Sides**.

"At the meeting we honored our Keeper of the Marks and Brands, **Laura Batchlor**, for her many years of service as she has stepped down. Our new Keeper is **Trayce Dinkel**.

"Speaker was historian **Larry Baliz**. A mountain here, as well as the VA Center, is named Battle Mountain and there has been controversy whether there was ever a battle here. Larry gave a very interesting account of the fighting between the Sioux and Cheyenne using the Sioux Winter Count." she wrote.

"This is the hide with the history done in pictures, one for each year for whatever event was most important. Not all Winter Counts have the same picture, but for 1833-34 all have a depiction of the meteor shower that occurred Nov. 12, 1833, since everyone thought this was the end of the world as the stars fell day and night," she continued.

"The 1840-41 record showed they were at peace with each other, largely because the Cheyenne had attacked a wagon train and came down with cholera and many warriors died."

The speaker showed some Winter Counts of these events as well as some others, and also showed his personal Winter Count, " she concluded.

An interesting program.

What is Happening Here?

In the Home Ranch office Mary and Fred Marvel, left and right, check for mistakes and updates to the WI Tally Sheet of active and dry camp corrals while web designer Sharon Kasper, center, corrects the errors they find. Work on the new Westerners International web site has been a time consuming activity for members of the website committee. (Photo by Jim Argo)

Omaha Corral Field Trip

End of season tour for the **Omaha Corral** was a visit to the steamboat *Bertrand* at the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. The group met in May at the refuge visitor center for an up-front and behind-the-scenes look at the Missouri River stern-wheeler.

The Montana-bound boat sank there on April 1, 1865. Lives were not lost but the vessel was nearly a total loss. A salvage crew out of Omaha stripped the wreck of its boilers, upper works, smoke stacks and even her sternwheel—all of which could be used to repair other boats—but the cargo stashed under the main deck was untouched and disappeared in river silt.

In the late 1960s the same cargo emerged in salvage

work and today virtually all of it is preserved and displayed at the visitor center.

Corral member and *Bertrand* curator **Dean Knudsen** was host to the group.

Casper Posse Up and Running

The Home Ranch has received word from the **Casper** (Wyoming) **Posse** that they are now organized, beginning to hold meetings and have sent in the dues for their members. Also a mailing list so each new member will receive a copy of the *Buckskin Bulletin* this year. Congratulations to sheriff **Douglas R. Cubbison** and welcome is extended to all our new Casper Westerners members.

Plaque Mystery Solved



The wood the castings were mounted on is much darker. We lightened this one so the casting would show up better.

From the Editor

Here is a question: some of you know, and some probably do not, that originally Westerners was an all male organization with a few Women's Posses which met separate from the men, such as the **Rachel Snowden Posse** in Omaha and the **Oklahoma City Women's Posse**. They were generally organized by the wives, sisters, aunts, etc. of the male members. Are there any all-male posses still around? Would be interesting to know.

Here is an unusual coincidence. Of the three women who are Living Legends two are loosely related. **Nellie Snyder Yost**, No. 12, is a distant cousin of **Jim Argo**, husband of Living Legend No. 59, **Burnis Argo**.

Burnis Argo

Do any of you have a plaque such as this one associated with your corral or posse? We recently had a visit by **Kristi Keller**, member of the **Santa Catalina Corral**, Tucson, Arizona. While sitting around the Home Ranch office she mentioned the mystery plaque her group seemed to have rescued but know nothing about. She described it and we all shook our heads and said we knew nothing of such a thing but would try and find out.

The very next week the same group, minus Keller, were back at the office and someone, maybe several at once, suddenly realized we had such a plaque in our office. Actually Kristi had been sitting with it right behind her, leaning against the wall. The rest of us were looking that way but somehow didn't connect it to what she described. **Fred Marvel**, who has been going through back issues of the *Buckskin Bulletin* worked his research magic and soon came up with the answer we needed.

The Old Joe sculpture on the plaque was created by a California Westerner **Dr. Joseph H. Shebl**, physician and sculptor. He had only three castings done of the 10-inch tall Old Joe, one he donated to Chicago, one to San Francisco and one to the Home Ranch office in Tucson at that time—pre-1971. He agreed that a few more could be struck and a corral could have one for \$300 donated to Westerners International.

Were there any further castings done? We don't know. The Home Ranch actually has two, apparently the one donated to Chicago and the casting alone from Tucson which hangs outside our office door. If your corral has one, take pride in it as it is a rare treasure and a rather expensive one costing \$300.

Buckskin Bulletin

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

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

email
wihomeranch@gmail.com

Check our web page:
www.westerners-international.org

Annual Dues
\$5 per member

HOME RANCH BUNCH

Kent & Cheryl McInnis, Don Reeves, Fred & Mary Marvel, Ed Kelsay, Bill Deupree, John Heisch, Jim & Burnis Argo, Sandi & Dennis Noble, John Marshall, Bob Berry, Brent Cummings and Harvey Pratt.

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1700 NE 63rd St. Oklahoma City, OK 73111

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Members Visit the Home Ranch

It has been our pleasure recently to have two WI members pay a visit to the Home Ranch. First was **Shebby Lee**, member of the **Black Hills Corral**, who was in Oklahoma City to attend a tourism conference. Jim and Burnis Argo met her for a short visit at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum before a dinner she was to attend.

Several days later Kristi **Keller** stopped at the museum on her way back to Arizona after a trip east. She was able to meet the Argos, Fred and Mary Marvel and Don Reeves and tour the WI office. During the visit she mentioned an unusual plaque her **Santa Catalina Corral** had found but didn't know any history about. After she left we were able to

solve the mystery. See story on Page 7.

Putting faces with our members is always fun. If you are coming our way, let

us know ahead of time and we will arrange to have someone at the office to meet with you and show you around. Visitors Welcome!



Shebby Lee, center, with Jim and Burnis Argo .



WESTERNERS FAMILY ALBUM

Here at the Home Ranch we think we have at least two copies of every bulletin except one. Issue No. 1, VIII, right, is one of only three published during the entire 1960s, as far as we know. Some things never change, such as the need for more volunteer help at the Home Ranch when it was in Tucson, below, Winter issue, 1987. We still need more volunteer help, 30 years later in Oklahoma City! The December, 1997, issue, below right, tells of approval to move the Home Ranch from Arizona to Oklahoma.

Buckskin Bulletin

Issued quarterly by The Westerners Foundation (affiliate of the University of the Pacific, Stockton, Calif.). Subscriptions \$5, P.O. Box 17552, Tucson, Arizona 85710. AUTUMN, 1969 VOL. III, NO. 1

25 Years of Clanking Spurs . . .

"Once each month some 75 Chicago business and professional men, most of them gentle looking, meet to revive the days of gore and glory of the Old West. They are the Westerners, a unique organization formed in Chicago in 1944 . . ."

Those words lead-off the first formal attempt to tell the story of the Westerners—in Chicago's

Sunday Tribune Gaffe, October 25, 1947. Author Lloyd Wendt displayed the acumen which since has hoisted him high on the Windy City's journalistic totem pole when he asseverated: "History clanks his spurs when the Westerners meet!"

For 25 years now, Westerners have been doing this, their thing. It got going when 13 Western history buffs bunched in a Chicago suburb, February 25, 1944, to hear Clarence Paine, Beloit College historian, present "a short and unlearned treatise on Calamity Jane." The late Elmo Scott Watson, Northwestern University journalism professor in whose home they chomped, put it for the record in the first issue of **The Brand Book** that Leland D. Case, then editor of **The Rotarian**, was "Father of the Westerners." But Case, who has retired several times as he says and now lives in Arizona, has always insisted upon sharing the paternity with Watson.

Those two with Franklin J. Meine, a book publisher, com-



BUCKSKIN BULLETIN
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Westerners Home Ranch Needs Help

Westerner Corrals throughout the country and in a sprinkling of foreign sites enjoy building on their local Western history and lore.

And through Westerners International members of all corrals share in the programs of awards for writing and activities, in the publication of the **Buckskin Bulletin**, and in awarding of scholarships.

Westerners participate with the Rundell family in awarding of the Walter Rundell award through the Western History Association, and in 1985 plans to award a scholarship through Phi Alpha Theta, history fraternity. Newest award for writing will be the Coke Wood award through a grant by chapters of E. Clampus Vitus in the San Francisco Bay area.

Awards have been supported by gifts from the late Dr. Phil Danielson of the University of the Pacific for papers presented at Corrals, and Dr. Leland Case, the Co-Founders Award for best books. An additional substantial amount, also invested and interest only used, came from an issue of western stamps with accompanying historical data, by the Franklin Mint. There have been lesser gifts, also invested.

But a large part of the on-going support of Westerners comes from dues from corrals; part of publication costs of the **Buckskin Bulletin** comes from advertisements.

New corrals are quite diligent in support of Westerners International by forwarding dues of \$1 per member. A number of older corrals, formed when WI activities were not as great as now, do not lend their proportionate support.

Buckskin Bulletin is produced by volunteers, but the costs of printing and mailing comes to about \$800 an issue, a sizable sum for the year.

Westerners published Badger Clark's **Sen and Saddle Leather** and also Badger Clark **Ballads**, a song book with music by J.E. "Aim" Morhardt. While not yet "in (continued on page 2)

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Kingashinnen

"Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year" is the message from K. Nishi, Sheriff of the Tokyo Corral sent to **Westerners**. See a picture of Sheriff Nishi and Sheriff Bill Hathorn of Stockton, CA, on another page of this issue.

Stockton Corral Co-Hosts April California History Institute

Stockton Corral Posse members will act as co-hosts for the 38th Annual California History Institute at the University of the Pacific, April 12-13, 1985. This special edition of the Institute will spotlight the Life and Legacy of John Muir, acclaimed naturalist and "Father of National Parks."

The program offers a variety of the thematic and topical approaches to the life and career of California's most important historical personality. Twenty-five listed speakers and panelists from thirteen different academic institutions in nine states and the District of Columbia will participate. A highlight will be a special appearance by Lee Stetson, Hollywood writer and actor who brings Muir to life in a widely-acclaimed one-man show.

As part of their role as co-hosts, the Westerners will assist with local arrangements and serve as greeters and guides for the large crowd that is expected to attend the two-day event.

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BUCKSKIN BULLETIN
Dec. 1987 Vol. XXI, No. 4

Home on a New Range . . .

Move to Oklahoma City Cowboy Hall of Fame Approved

Oklahoma City will become new home range of Westerners International when a suitable agreement is finalized with the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, a vote of the executive committee in Tucson decided November 18.

All twelve members of the executive committee, made up of board members within driving distance of Tucson, were at the meeting, as well as David Dary, WI president, and Donald Green, of the Indian Territory Posse, Oklahoma City. The vote was unanimous except for one abstention. Previously the board of National Cowboy Hall of Fame has voted favorably on becoming WI headquarters location and the Indian Territory Posse has enthusiastically supported the move, with assurances of volunteers needed to staff headquarters.

The move has been explored well from both cities involved. In June Ed Shaw, past sheriff of Indian Territory Posse, was in Tucson for a board meeting and visit to WI office to review operations. In September Jarvis Harriman, board chairman, and Peyton Reavis, executive vice president, were in Oklahoma City visiting proposed office location and meeting with delegation from Indian Territory Posse and with individual posse members who are expected to take over key responsibilities.

Harriman has written to John Windolph, Sheriff of the Indian Territory Posse, and Byron Price, executive director of National Cowboy Hall of Fame, about the resolution as voted at the November meeting in Tucson: "resolved, that providing the board of directors of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center and Westerners International reach a suitable agreement, WI will move its headquarters to Oklahoma City and the NCHH of Fame and WHC."

Green sized up the materials to be transferred and will make plans with other volunteers in Oklahoma City about plans for the physical move when the final agreements are concluded.

Westerners headquarters came to Tucson with the retirement of Leland Case. WI founder, from the University of the Pacific in 1968, based upon a vote of Westerners gathered in Ogden, Utah, Case developed a group of volunteers who over the years have worked to expand the number of corrals and greatly increase the financial status of WI.

Dary reelected WI President; Name Oklahomans for Future Key Officers

David Dary, Lawrence, KS, was named president of Westerners International for a third year and other executive officers were continued in office at the WI board meeting in Tucson November 18.

When the transfer of headquarters to Oklahoma City is accomplished, Jarvis Harriman, chairman, Peyton Reavis, executive vice president, and Will Brown, Secretary-treasurer, will be succeeded by officers designated from the Oklahoma corrals.

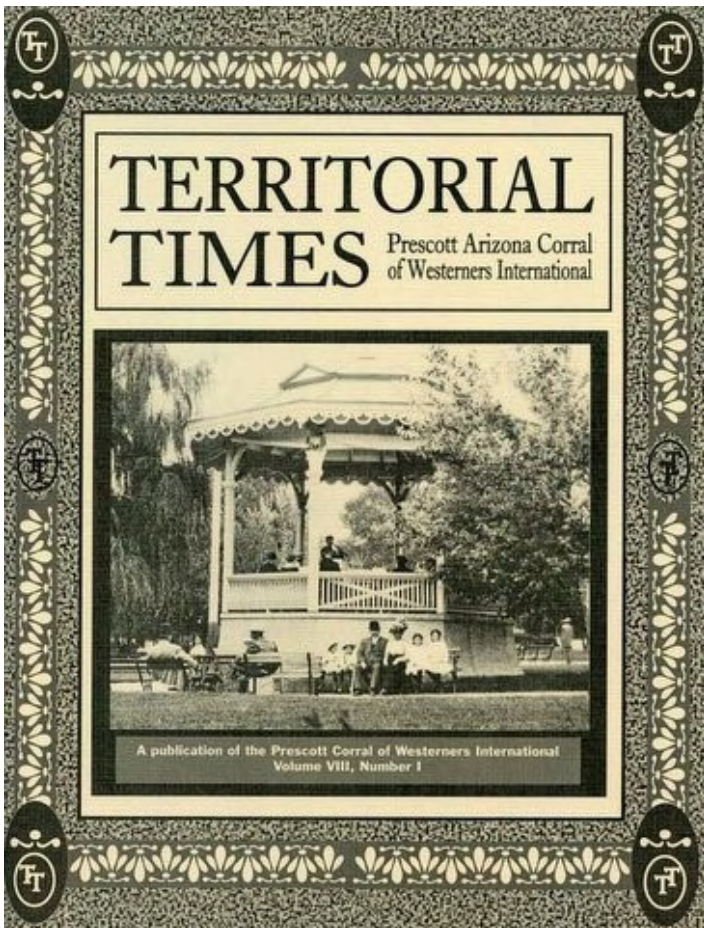
Board members from Oklahoma named at the meeting include Robert Blackburn, John Donnelly, Odie Faulk, Donald Green, John Marshall and Don Reeves. Other board members named are Wallace Clayton, Bruce Dinges, Walter Fathauer, C.V. "Jim" Hughes, Sigurd Jensen, Robert F. Johnson, Carolyn Nelson, David Robrock, and William C. Scott, all of Tucson; Fred L. Lee, Kansas City; Robert Lenon, Patagonia, AZ; Clara Lobdell, Rapid City, SD; Leon Metz, El Paso, TX; and Bernie Webb, Carrington, ND.

The board also includes the seventeen regional vice-presidents. An executive committee of board members near the headquarters is designated to meet bi-monthly to transact ongoing business.

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WESTERNERS PUBLISHING



Several of our corrals and posses do more than send out a small meeting notice. Some publish a more substantial offering various times a year for their members to enjoy. Above is the *Territorial Times* of the Prescott Corral and right the *Roundup* of the Denver Westerners. Above right is from the Old Hays City Corral, Hays, Kansas, one of our new groups.

RECEIVED JUN 29 2015

Volume 1, Issue 2 June 2015

THE LIMESTONE POST

THE OLD HAYS CITY CORRAL OF THE WESTERNERS STANDS TALL AND STURDY LIKE A LIMESTONE POST, A LASTING TESTAMENT TO OUR WESTERN AMERICAN HERITAGE

George Washington Bardsley

1844-1928

OFFICERS:

Sheriff: Will Johnson

Trail Boss: Vacant

Keeper of the Chops: Jill Davis-Hausler

Waddle: Robert White

Rep: Judi Winchester

Ink Singer: Jaime Schiesinger

Printer's Devil: John "JT" Trabert

Special Deputy: Jim Huerngarde

Sheriff of Ellis County, Kansas 1876-78

Born in Maysville, Kentucky, February 2, 1844, Bardsley was one of six children. His mother died when he was six, and he along with one of his sisters and a brother were sent to live with an uncle. Bardsley worked in a cigar factory for awhile and later became a cabin boy on a riverboat.

On October 30, 1861, he joined the 1st Virginia Volunteer Cavalry as a private. He was captured by the South on October 7, 1862, in Braxton County, Virginia and sent to Libby Prison. He was later released in a prisoner exchange on June 1, 1863. After rejoining his company on December 31, 1863, he was reassigned as an escort for General Miles.

He found his way to Hays City, Kansas, where he opened the Bardsley House in the location of the former Kate Coffee Saloon. This is where he was when he ran for sheriff.

Ellis County had many brave sheriffs. Among them George Bardsley, sheriff from 1876 to 1878 stands out as one of the most fearless. Newspaper accounts of Bardsley's capture of horse thieves and train robbers are some of the most exciting and intrepid stories of his time. The equal of any frontier sheriff.

guards assented. Such a bold move was all that was required to satisfy the folks at the station that they had not been mistaken in their man.

The agent sent a telegram to Bardsley, who was in Abilene. He then wired his deputy, who contacted the commanding officer at Fort Hays for arms and men. This led to the capture of 15 men and 20 head of horses as well as the wounding of Big Ike by Sheriff Bardsley.

On September 18, 1877, a train was robbed in Nebraska of \$60,000 in newly minted gold coins. This news was wired to every sheriff in the surrounding area.

It was thought that some might go south, heading towards Mexico, as they had been recognized as the Sam Bass gang. Again Sheriff Bardsley called on the fort for men and arms, and boarded the train for Buffalo Station. There he encountered Joel Collins and Bill Heffrids, two members of the Bass gang. They decided to fight it out and came up short. \$20,000 in gold was recovered. To this day it is the only gold recovered from that robbery.

Will Johnson
(Continues in the next newsletter)

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The DENVER WESTERNERS ROUNDUP

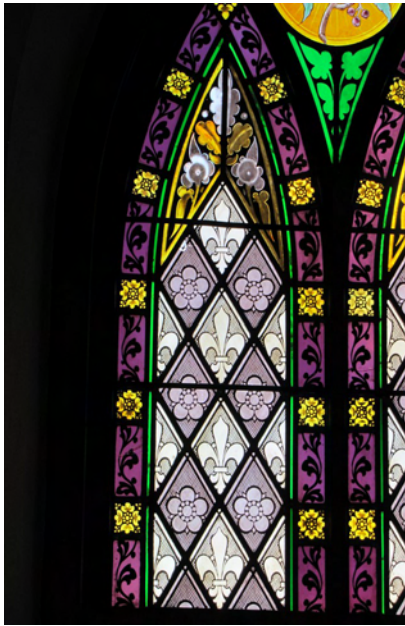
March - April 2015

courtesy History Colorado
National Encampment Parade, Denver, 1928

The Grand Army of the Republic in Colorado
by Ray Thal
(Presented November 19, 2014)



Bisbee Corral at Tombstone



Here are some more sights from the tour of Tombstone, Arizona, taken by the Bisbee Corral. Above the *Tombstone Epitaph* office, now a museum, and above left, a stained glass window, complete with bullet hole at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Below right is the Bird Cage Theatre and below left, the church rectory with a crib (bordello) behind the tree.

Photos by
Doug Hocking

