



WI Home Ranch Seeks New Pastures

By Our Chairman

Years ago one of my history professors shared an anecdote about Western American artist Frederick Remington. Also known for his considerable girth, Remington stated that the saddest day of his life was the day his horse of many years collapsed under him and died. It forced him to look for a replacement, and fast. We at the Home Ranch have ridden the horse at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum for 29 good years. Sadly, our horse has collapsed and we find ourselves looking for a replacement, and fast.

We have been the very grateful guests of this world class National Cowboy Museum since 1988, when fellow Westerner and then museum president *Byron Price* invited the Westerners Home Ranch in Tucson, Arizona, to relocate to Oklahoma City. The story has been told in the *Buckskin Bulletin* many times. Of the several sponsors from the **Indian Territory Posse** of Oklahoma Westerners involved in the move back then was **Don Reeves**, who has been our secretary since day one. Still employed at the National Cowboy Museum, we will always be grateful to Don for his liaison work, both to connect the Home Ranch to the past and to bring continuity to our relationship with our hosts at the museum.

Over the years we have enjoyed office and executive board support, not only from our original sponsor Indian Ter-



Cheryl & Kent McInnis
 ritory Posse, but from the **Chisholm Trail Corral** in Oklahoma City, the **South Canadian Cross-Timbers Corral** in Norman, Oklahoma, and from the **Fort Smith Corral** in Arkansas. This is a testament to their active interests in, not only Western history, but in the Westerners organization itself. There are too many men and women to thank in this column, but you will find their names when you read past issues of *Buckskin Bulletin*.

For now, our staff is a small group. That is good. Our temporary offices at the museum are not adequate. Besides Secretary **Don Reeves**, we have Treasurer **Mary Marvel**, who always brings her husband **Fred**. Likewise, *Buckskin Bulletin* editor **Burnis Argo** brings her husband **Jim** to work. It has at all times been a good team, but to get even four in our current space at one time is a challenge. We have resorted to going to the office on different days. In the long run, that is simply not workable. And the museum wants our space.

For 29 years we have worked in close association with

“our” museum. Every member of the museum staff, including volunteers, knows us. It is evident that they are sad to see us leave. Often when I depart after my usual Tuesday work day, I chat with the security team as I sign out, then chew the fat with the grounds crew as I go to my car. Frequently, a docent will come by to visit our office, because someone else has bragged on us. At evening events I often get the privilege of talking to staff members in a manner that says, I belong here. We have felt like we were part of the fabric of the museum and helped to make it the great institution it is. We are sad to leave such supportive friends.

The future appears to mimic our own American history of westward movement. We, too, are heading to new pastures. The Home Ranch is definitely leaving Oklahoma. Your current Home Ranch crew can assure our future hosts that the organization is fiscally sound, well organized, and primed for meeting the changes that all organizations face over time. Just as your chairman has always been pleased with the dedication of our many volunteers at the Home Ranch, I know that Westerners will always be in good hands wherever we land this year. Westerners International is ready for its next generation of leaders to innovate, reinvent, and motivate our 5000 plus international membership on into its second 100 years.

Kent McInnis



This article first appeared on-line March, 2016

Volunteers Backbone of Westerners

Volunteer: *one who gives willingly of time and talents to a charitable, educational or other worthwhile activities, especially in one's community.*

By Our President

Nearly every museum, historical site and historical society lives and dies by the strength and enthusiasm of its volunteers. The same is true of groups like Westerners – our organization's existence is entirely dependent on the good will of folks contributing a little of their time for the greater good, asking nothing in return except an occasional wry reference in the *Buckskin Bulletin*.

Back in October, our **Old Hay's City Corral's** first sheriff, *Will Johnson*, resigned and moved to Texas for cancer treatments. We learned recently that he finally lost his battle with the disease on March 15,



Juti Winchester

and the world lost one of its great volunteers. Will was a force of nature and will be sorely missed for himself and the many things he accomplished.

His day job was as a pastor for a local church, but he spent the rest of his time volunteering in one capacity or another at our local historical society's museum. He served on the board of trustees, demonstrated leatherworking in the Harness Shop, and made countless presentations to the public on firearms, lawmen, and "wild women of the West." Will also single-handedly rounded up big prizes for semi-annual drawings to benefit the museum, bringing in thousands of dollars to support the mission. You couldn't ask for a better one-man-band to toot our horn.

In Oklahoma City *Mary* and *Fred Marvel*, *Burnis* and *Jim Argo*, *Kent McInnis*, *Don Reeves*, ably assisted by other local Westerners willing to stop by to lend an occasional hand, deserve a Conestoga load of gratitude for keeping the Westerners herd so smoothly on the trail despite some rough weather and dry times these past 29 years.

However, while our corrals have been diligently studying, presenting, and discussing Western History in all of its glory and wonder, the world around us has changed. If we want Westerners to survive and thrive beyond our own time, we'll need to change, too. New ideas, fresh perspective and an abundance of enthusiasm should see

us well on the way to the next waterhole. I know the present Home Ranch denizens are looking forward to handing over the reins to those of the future.

Remember—If many do a little a few do not have to do a lot.

Juti Winchester

EDITOR'S NOTE

In her column about Volunteers, our president left out two who are very important to the Home Ranch—herself and *Cheryl McInnis*, wife of our chairman Kent McInnis.

Juti Winchester quickly volunteered to take on the job of president of Westerners at a time we suddenly needed one. She is very willing to give of her time to answer questions, offer suggestions and worry along with us at the Home Ranch—long distance—when problems occur. She has been a member of three corrals, **Garden of the Sun**, **Pahaska** and **Old Hays City** having started the latter two.

Cheryl willingly attends the annual WHA meetings each year manning the WI Booth and in her spare time, taking pictures for the bulletin which she also does at the **Chisholm Trail Corral**. When she can she comes to the office with Kent, gladly pitching in with office jobs and offering ideas.

Our very special thanks to them both! And to Fred & Mary Marvel for their time spent proofreading all of the *Buckskin Bulletins*.

Corral Learns Lakota Traditions

By Carol Sikes

Last summer the **Jedidiah Smith Corral**, Hot Springs, SD, took a field trip to the IRAM Horse Sanctuary. There we met with **Tom Cook**, a Mohawk from New York. He married a Lakota woman and has attended the Sun Dance every year since. He keeps the tradition alive with the younger people.

He told us of the reason for the Sun Dance, which involves a lot of prayer. There is a 40-50 foot Cottonwood tree cut to place in the center of a circle. This is the tree of life and may never touch the ground as only dead trees are on the ground. Therefore, it takes about 60 men to carry the tree the several miles from where it is cut to the dance.

For the past several years the tree has been cut by the creek on the place of **Bernice Landers**, our corral sheriff. To show appreciation to Bernice, Cook and **Chief American Horse** gifted her, on behalf of the people, with an "Honor the Horse" blanket. The four colors in the blanket represent the colors of people. Black is west like thunder clouds—frightening, but gives good things. Red is north where buffalo people and Old Man Winter come from. Yellow represents east where the out nation people paint themselves yellow. White is south for purity and where death goes.

About 68 dancers are pierced for one to four days. It is a time for prayer and telling their problems to the tree. All the people there, including visitors, are welcome to pray.

Cook also told of the seven ritual ceremonies of the Lakota Culture. The oldest is the Sweat Lodge, which is for prayer and purification. A Vision Quest can be done for either two or four days and nights.

Making of Relations is where they can choose to adopt a relation by putting up a feast. Puberty Rite is a tossing of a ball with song and a ceremony. Keeping of Soul allows you to keep the soul of a loved one with you for a year. Night Dance is a social event. Ghost Dance was done during times of drought, when rations were cut, so there was prayer for life and getting weapons back and for their way of life.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story and picture arrived at our office in late summer about the time the Home Ranch learned it must quickly pack up and move to a smaller office. In packing things for storage as well as moving this apparently got shuffled to the bottom of a stack, only to reappear recently. Our apologies to the Jedidiah Smith Corral for taking so long to get this in print.



Pictured are, left to right, Tom Cook, Bernice Landers, sheriff of the Jedidiah Smith Corral, and Lakota Chief American Horse. (Photo provided)

Corral Roundup

The **Greater Saint Louis Corral** has had several excellent programs recently to report.

Mike Barkin gave a talk on the Lewis and Clark Expedition in November. He had several original and many reproduction items that would have been familiar to the men of the Corps of Discovery. Members present were able to touch items such as furs and metalwork which could have been among those that actually went to the Pacific.

In January **Vincent Heier** presented The Tragedy of Wounded Knee, the last major battle of the American Indian Wars.

He presented the history leading up to what the tribes call the "Massacre at Wounded Knee," giving the story from the perspectives of several of the participants. This then led into the story of Lost Bird, one of the survivors of the incident, and the story of her tragic life afterwards.

>>>>

Denver Posse heard an interesting talk by **LaVonne Perkins** at the February meeting. She discussed some of the roadblocks she encountered during research for her book "D.C. Oakes': Family, Friends & Foe." The book was a result of her discovery of the writings of Emma Oakes, a flea-market book which introduced her to Daniel Chessman Oakes, who, she admits, became a mild obsession.

Included in the talk were the rewards of sleuthing and persistence in pursuit of details of the life of Emma Oakes.

"Wyatt Earp—Entrepreneur, Gambler, Investor and Ordinary Citizen" was the topic of the program by **Anne Collier** for the March luncheon meeting of the **Huntington Westerners**, Pasadena, CA.

Collier said the fact not generally known is for most of his life Earp "called California home and lived quietly in Southern California for nearly half of his life." Certainly another side to the life of the man most of us know for his interactions with various outlaws and rambunctious cowboys.

>>>>>

Paul Clark was the speaker at the March meeting of the **Los Angeles Corral**. His topic was "Yale Grove: A Pioneer Citrus Ranch in Southern California." Established in 1875 by Albert B. Clark, the grove epitomized the changeover of southern California from cattle ranching to becoming a citrus empire.

Paul Clark, a great grandson of Albert, based his talk on the memoirs of his great grandmother, Mary Teagarden Clark, which Paul edited in 2013. Albert died in 1883.

>>>>>

Chicago Corral met in February to hear a talk by **Kevin Connelly** on "The Battle of Arikaree Fork, September of 1868."

"A large encampment of Lakota, Arapaho and Cheyenne Dog soldiers, led by war leader Roman Nose, greatly outnumbered Major General Alexander Forsyth of the 9th Cavalry. Forsyth's handpicked soldiers were armed with Spencer repeating rifles...."

What happened next has been referred to as the greatest confrontation between the U.S. Army and the Plains Indians at the time.

Connelly has been researching the Plains Indians battle for many years, said the meeting



notice. The history of this battle is one of the most debated, discussed and argued elements of the Old West and Kevin's expertise on this subject is not to be missed.

>>>>>

Omaha Corral held its annual Dress Western Night in March. Speaker was Michael Tate, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. His presentation was titled "Indians and Immigrants on the Overland Trails: Myths Re-examined."

The group once again had a Westerners table at the annual Missouri Valley History Conference in early March.

"We gain great visibility and perhaps even a member or two" each year.

>>>>>

"Only in Boulder: The County's Colorful Characters" was the title of the March program for the **Boulder Corral**. Speaker was Silvia Pettem, author and columnist whose history columns bring to life some of Boulder's most memorable and unique visitors, residents, activists, artists and entrepreneurs.

>>>>>

San Francisco Corral had a timely program in March presented by Rose Marie Beebe and Robert Senkewicz who wrote a book titled "*Junipero Serra: California, Indians and the Transformation of a Missionary*."

"Pope Francis's decision in 2015 to canonize Junipero Serra sparked a storm of controversy, especially in California,

says the meeting notice. There were serious disagreements between those who believed Serra should be canonized as an intrepid and even heroic evangelizer of the New World and those who believed Serra was a central figure in the destruction of the Native American way of life and thus is unworthy of the honor of sainthood."

In the presentation the speakers attempted to get behind the controversy and to look at Serra the man. "In our judgment, the two major forces in Serra's life were his personal identity as an 18th century Catholic missionary and his relationship with the native peoples he encountered in central Mexico, Baja California and Alta California."

Corral Visits Other Groups

Doug Hocking from the **Co-chise County Corral**, who says he was late in reporting as he has been OBE (overcome by events), wrote this winter to let us know some of the things his group has been up to—other than the many great field trips they have been taking.

"In 2015 we joined the **Durango Westerners** and San Juan Basin Archaeological Society for a meeting.

"It was great to get to know them all. From us they took away the idea of Hailing and Adiosing Old Joe which we learned at the **Tucson Corral**. "We also have made visits to the **Green Valley** and **Silver City Corrals**. Our members have spoken at their meetings and they have sent speakers to us. One of our members has an invite to speak at the **Scottsdale Corral** this spring. We hope to visit the **Adobe** and **Santa Catalina Corrals** soon."



WS Ranch Cemetery, Alma, NM, was a stop on a Silver City Corral field Trip (Photo Provided)

Silver City Corral Reports Busy Year

By Don Turner, Sheriff

Our year 2015 started with the election of myself as Sheriff, **Ron Henderson**, Deputy Sheriff, **Mary Margaret Soule** as Keeper of the Chips and **Pamela Weber** as our Drummer.

During the February meeting **Cecilia Bell** presented a video and talk on the "Preserving of the Oregon-California Trail."

In April **Susan Berry** presented a talk on "Elizabeth Warren, Early Silver Builder." **Dr. Dale Giese** was presented with a lifetime membership in our corral for being a Founding Father of the organization and for his talks and support for our group. He was the first Sheriff when Corral #36 was formed in 1970.

At the June meeting **Don Beem** gave a presentation on "Silver City Train Depots and Early Railroading."

Patricia Kidney traveled up from El Paso, Texas, in August to tell us about "Bronco Sue." Recognized at this meeting was **Pete Kennedy** who was informed by Westerners International that he had placed second in the Fred Olds

Western Poetry Award competition.

A special speaker gave the program at our October meeting. **Ashlyn Richey** talked about "John Doyle Lee and the Mountain Meadow Massacre." John Lee was the great, great, great, great grandfather of Ashlyn. She is the youngest person to give a presentation to our corral as she is only 12 years old and in the 7th grade at LaPlata Middle School.

At the December meeting **Neta Pope** and **Andrea Jaquez** gave a presentation on "What Happened to the Skinner Family," a family of Gold Rush '49ers. Their research covered cemeteries from Dona Ana, NM, to some in California.

The corral took three historical field trips in 2015.

The first, led by **Terry Humble**, took us to Fort Cummings and up Cooke's Canyon, aka Massacre Canyon. The second took us to Cow Springs and Soldier's Farewell and was led by **Anthony Romero**. The third trip, led by **Ron Henderson**, took us to the WS Ranch Cemetery near Alma, NM with eight historical stops

along the way.

Our 2016 is shaping up to be a bigger and better season for the Silver City Westerners. Please join us at the Glad Tidings' Church east of Silver City a 6:30 on the third Tuesday of the even numbered months.

Wanted:

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

**1700 NE 63rd
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
wihomeranch@gmail.com**

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



Will Rogers Visits Corral

By Judy Pearce

The February meeting of the **Santa Barbara Corral** drew a crowd of 81.

Local actor, filmmaker, writer and cowboy historian Rich Hoag entertained us with his award-winning one man performance by stepping into the boots of Will Rogers.

Hoag has delighted audiences nationally for his ability to capture the folksy humor and honest, intelligent observations about our country that made Rogers the most popular man in America during the 1920s and 30s.

The resemblance between the two men made the presentation feel as if Rogers was in the room with us.

Hoag read articles from current Santa Barbara newspapers, making humorous comments in Will Rogers fashion.

Hoag's impersonation, and short film clips of Will from his movie career, on his favorite horse, and performing rope tricks enhanced the feel of our being transported to the long ago era when American citizens were given hope and lifted from woes of the Great Depression by a cowboy from Oklahoma.

Will Rogers was a familiar figure locally when he played polo at Santa Barbara's Fleishmann Field and rode horseback in the early years of our annual Old Spanish Days Fiesta parade.



Rich Hoag portraying Will Rogers. (Photo Provided)

Annual Banquet Held

The **Llano Estacado Corral**, Lubbock, Texas, held its annual banquet January 16. Over 60 Westerners and their guests attended the special event. Speaker was **B. Byron Price**,



director of the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, and himself a Westerner and member of the **South Canadian Cross-Timbers Corral** (Provided picture at left.)

His topic was J. Everett Haley and his legal battle in Lubbock over passages in Haley's book *"The XIT Ranch of Texas and the Early Days of the Llano Estacado."*

It was reported there was plenty of good talk, lively banter and refreshing cocktails preceding the "fine dinner and stimulating presentation by the speaker."

Massacre is Subject of Talk

Members of the **South Canadian Cross-Timbers Corral** met in February to hear a talk by John Baucom. His subject was "Blaming 'Cousin Lemuel': How the Southern Paiute were scapegoated for the Mountain Meadows Massacre, 1857." Considered one of the worst

tragedies in the history of the American West, it resulted in the murder of approximately 120 men, women and children. The talk explored the creation and lingering effect of the Mormon led cover-up which blamed the massacre on the Southern Paiute.

Utah Westerners Report

**By Steve Gallenson
Chairman**

Utah Westerners got off to a great start in January with the election of officers at the board meeting (always held the first Tuesday of a month. Those elected were **Gallenson, Laura Bayer**, Vice Chairwoman; **Kent Tschanz**, Secretary; **Craig Smith**, Treasurer; **Linda Thatcher** and **Ken Cannon II**, Program.

Speaker at our January meeting at the Alta Club was **L. Jackson Newell**, professor emeritus at the University of Utah, one-time Dean of the university's Liberal Education Program and president emeritus of Deep Springs College, California. His program was titled "Utah's Maverick Pioneer: From Hydroelectric Power to Educational Reform with Lucien L. Nunn."

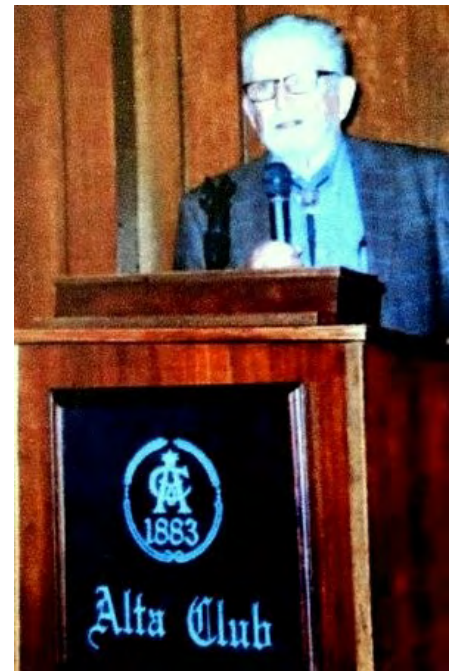
In February the board voted

to donate \$1,000 to a Utah monument called Circleville Massacre Memorial that is being planned. The monument will recognize and honor approximately 30 Indian men, women and children who were murdered at Circleville, Utah, during the Black Hawk War of the mid-1860s in central Utah.

Guest speaker at the February meeting was Mark Rutter, a writer and photographer, who has published 50 books. He also contributed to American Experience's *The Wild West and the A&E documentary Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

The title of his program for us was "Fallen Angels, Prostitution in the West."

As the program announcement said "Sadly, little is known about the working girls in the American West. Society labeled them as fallen and did its best to sweep them under the table with other social misfits."



L. Jackson Newell

Notes From the Editor

As you can tell from pages 1 and 2 things are in a bit of an upheaval at the Home Ranch while we await developments on a future home for the Home Ranch office. You can keep up on any news by checking now and then with the WI web site:

www.westerners-international.org

You also may have noticed we have a number of pictures and articles from various member groups this issue. Thank you so much for letting us know what your group is doing. The bulletin is for keeping everyone informed and, hopefully, developing a sense of community among our wide-spread membership. It is always interesting to see what various Corals and Posses are doing, and getting ideas for programs or field trips or even places we might want to visit on a vacation. We are always interested in your suggestions, ideas or even complaints. A couple of years ago someone said he didn't always know where a corral is located if the town name isn't in the group's name. Your editor has been trying to keep that in mind and hopes she is doing better at including a location for groups such as Jedidiah Smith, Fort Abraham Lincoln or Chisholm Trail Corral, to mention just a few of them.

Deadline for submissions to our annual awards competition is April 30. If we know one is coming but will be a day or two late please let us know so we can watch for it and include it in the judging packets.

Burnis Argo

Buckskin Bulletin

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Check our web page:

www.westerners-international.org

**Annual Dues
\$5 per member**

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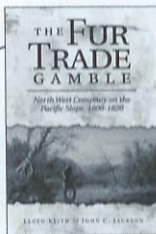
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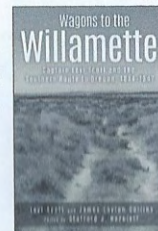
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Scenes From: WI WINTER BOARD MEETING 2016

Photos by Jim Argo



Don Reeves



Top, l to r, Mary Marvel, Burnis Argo, Bill Deupree. Above, l to r Melvena & John Heisch, Fred & Mary Marvel, Burnis Argo, Bill Deupree. Left, Bill Deupree, Kent McInnis, Don Reeves.



John Marshall 1



Cheryl & Kent McInnis



Executive Board Meeting January 19, 2016

Kent McInnis, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to order at 5:30 p.m. Present: Burnis Argo, Jim Argo, Bill Deupree, Rodger Harris, John Heisch, Cheryl McInnis, Kent McInnis, John Marshall, Fred Marvel, Mary Marvel, Don Reeves. Guest Melvena Heisch.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the October 22, 2015 Executive Board meeting at the Western History Association conference were reviewed. J. Argo moved that the minutes be accepted as amended, seconded by F. Marvel. Minutes approved as amended.

Financial Report

M. Marvel gave a report on the finances (see attached report) as of December 31, 2015. The current balance of the operating account at MidFirst Bank in is \$3,049.49 with \$770.49 available in discretionary funds. The Arvest Investments total \$26,355.76 and staying remarkably even in the unsettled financial market. The OKC Community Foundation investments total \$208,319.26

Marvel noted that the report reflected increased expenses for merchandise. Numerous supplies needed to be reordered in 2015. It was observed

that 43 of 61 active corrals have paid dues at this date for 2015. Dues for this year are beginning to come in. J. Argo moved that the financial report be accepted, seconded by F. Marvel. Financial report was approved.

Office Report

B. Argo reported that four issues of Buckskin Bulletin were published in 2015. She remarked that numerous corrals had been contributing photos and information last year. The Spring issue may be digital. President Juti Winchester asked that Burnis Argo commit to publishing two more issues during a time when the office may be in transition. K. McInnis noted that the "WI Board Member" pins were available for \$6.00 each.

Old Business

K. McInnis said that the WI Reception at the Western History Association conference went well but the WI Session was problematic. None of the speakers who committed to the session attended the conference. However, Kent and Cheryl McInnis adapted the presentation, volunteering their talents and soliciting others in attendance.

New Business

The Executive Committee discussed the language of a proposal to transfer the Westerners International office to a new location in a different

state. Important considerations considered were: time frame for move, logistics of the physical move, possible move of the financial resources as well as the WI records archived at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

J. Argo moved that the language of the proposal to relocate be approved with amendments. J. Heisch seconded. Motion was approved with one negative vote submitted by proxy with three votes in absentia. The proposal to relocate was sent that evening to WI President Juti Winchester. The Executive Committee noted the need for a complete inventory of Westerners International holdings located at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. A subcommittee was assigned that task to be completed in 2 months.

K. McInnis moved for adjournment, J. Argo seconded. Motion passed.

Don Reeves



John & Melvena Heisch