

BUCKSKIN BULLETIN



"TAOS GOLDEN SUNSET" BY MIKE MAHON

MIKE MAHON IS A NATIVE WEST TEXAN WHO NOW LIVES IN NEW MEXICO. HE PAINTS IN PASTELS AND OILS. MIKE ALSO TEACHES ART WORKSHOPS, IS A PORTRAIT ARTIST, ART COACH, AND AUTHOR. MIKE MAHON IS A SIGNATURE MEMBER OF THE PASTEL SOCIETY OF AMERICA (PSA), THE PASTEL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO (PSNM) THE PLEIN AIR PAINTERS OF NEW MEXICO (PAPNM) AND FORMER SIGNATURE MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN PLAINS ARTISTS (APA). TO SEE MORE OF MIKE'S PAINTINGS AND PAINTING VIDEOS, CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING AT: [HTTPS://WWW.MMAHON.COM/](https://www.mmahon.com/) ; [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/C/MIKEMAHONFINEARTIST1](https://www.youtube.com/c/mikemahonfineartist1) ; [HTTPS://WWW.PATREON.COM/MIKEMAHONFINEARTIST/](https://www.patreon.com/mikemahonfineartist/)



CHAIRMAN'S GREETING

FIRST AND FOREMOST: Be sure you have the Westerners' Gather on your calendar! You're not going to want to miss this one. With leadership and lots of work from Cal Larive, Sheriff, the Jedediah Smith Corral is hosting our Gather on Sept 17-21 in Hot Springs, South Dakota. They have planned an initial day of registration and meet-and-greet on Wed, Sept. 17, with the main program Thurs – Sunday. There are trips to Mt. Rushmore, Deadwood, and more; and they have planned superb programs on Western History. Come have grand fun and show your Westerners International spirit. We can't wait to see you there!!

The link to their corral website is on the Westerners International homepage, and is listed here, too: <https://www.jsccorral.com/> You'll find all the info you need there about itineraries and speakers; and you'll find the registration link at the bottom of the page. Don't delay!!

Further south, to update you all, we're all eagerly awaiting the arrival of fall weather. The summer's been a scorcher, and we'll take a drop in temperature of even a few degrees! Texas and elsewhere have experienced devastating floods, and many a western wildfire is burning this season. Our hearts and prayers go out to all effected by these severe weather events. And we can't wait for cool breezes and autumn colors!

Delinda King/Secretary-Treasurer, Lisa Jackson/WI Assistant, and I have continued our work over the summer. Award entries have been judged and you will find the list of award winners elsewhere in this Bulletin. Thanks from the heart to all of you who submitted entries. As is often the case, we had record numbers of entries and the decisions were hard on all fronts. We congratulate the winners and we offer, again, enthusiastic appreciation for each and every one of the entries submitted.

REMINDER ABOUT CHANGES IN WEBSITE ADDRESS AND MAILING ADDRESS

(posted in the June 2025 Bulletin, as well)

In case you missed it in last time's Bulletin, here's what you need to know!

The new Home Ranch email is:
WesternersHomeRanch@gmail.com

The new Home Ranch mailing address is:
Westerners International
2200 4th Ave Box 309
Canyon TX 79015

The Home Ranch phone number remains the same: **806-654-6920**. It's been the same for the past few years, but we want to be sure you have it handy!

Finally – as always!! – a special thanks goes out to Ken Pirtle, Buckskin Bulletin Editor and member of the Palo Duro Corral in Amarillo, TX, for formatting, producing, and editing yet another great issue of the Bulletin – full of good news on events and activities in our corrals and posses!

Happy Trails!



Bonney MacDonald
Chairman, Westerners International

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SADDLE UP Y'ER PONIES AND RIDE TO OUR GATHER THIS SEPTEMBER!

You'll see this enthusiastically announced elsewhere in the Bulletin, but here's just another shout out to Cal Larive and the Jedediah Smith Corral in Hot Springs, South Dakota.

They are putting on a Gather from Sept 17 - 21 and it promises to be loads of Western fun, with exciting trips (Mt. Rushmore, Deadwood!) and a host of programs and meals.

You can learn all about the itinerary and registration on their website. (jscorral.com) The registration link is at the bottom of the first page and the itinerary is all laid out and explained for us on the website.

So git y'er hosses legged up and ready to go. We're headed to South Dakota and can't wait to see you there!

in beautiful and historic

Hot Springs, South Dakota



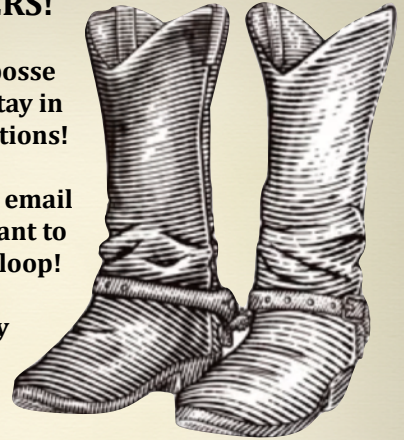
605-891-3144 or callarive@yahoo.com

REMINDER TO ALL SHERIFFS AND MEMBERS!

Sheriffs: Please remember to email the Buckskin Bulletin to all of your corral or posse members. And please keep us up to date on your contact information – we want to stay in touch and we always appreciate all of your updates, newsletters, and publications!

All Members: *** Please be sure that your corral and posse sheriffs have your current email address so they can forward the Buckskin Bulletin to you when they get it from us! We want to be sure you're in the loop!

The Buckskin Bulletin comes out four times a year. It's emailed to all sheriffs so that they can forward it by email to their posse or corral members. The current Bulletin is also always available on the front page of the Westerners website; back issues are accessible on the website through the Buckskin Bulletin link.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SENT IN 2025 DUES!**

A big thanks to all of you who sent in your corral or posses dues to us at the Home Ranch and an equally big thanks to all who sent in contact sheets. Without those, we can't contact your corral or posse effectively; so we really appreciate your sending the information!

Please remember that, if you corral or posse is not currently in a position to be able to afford dues, you can let us know and send in 50% of what's due. We really want to help you stay involved with whatever help we can. So just keep in touch and let us know, and we'll support you however we can!

And, if you haven't done so yet, please return the contact information sheet asap to the address indicated on the form. We need that information so we can send the Bulletin to the right place (your members deserve it!), and so we have current email and mailing information for your officers. Thank you!!

WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL AWARDS: THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT IN ENTRIES!!

Awards entry forms were sent out to Reps by email, along with the dues and contact info sheets in late February. They were also posted on the WI website for downloading, in case that was more convenient to folks. There were due on May 15, 2025, and we received a large number of entries for this year!

You are all working on interesting programs and publications, and we're so glad, every year, to hear about your events and your work! We want to spread the good word and award you all for your efforts

We thank you for sending in your award entries. Each year the number of entries grows, and that means that more and more Westerners are giving wonderful programs, writing important books, articles, and poems, and contributing to the overall good of this organization.

Here in the Bulletin, you find the list of the awards for work done in 2024. The awards will be given out at the banquet at the Gather. For winners who are not able to be present, the awards will be mailed out through USPS.



SO MUCH

South Dakota

SO LITTLE TIME

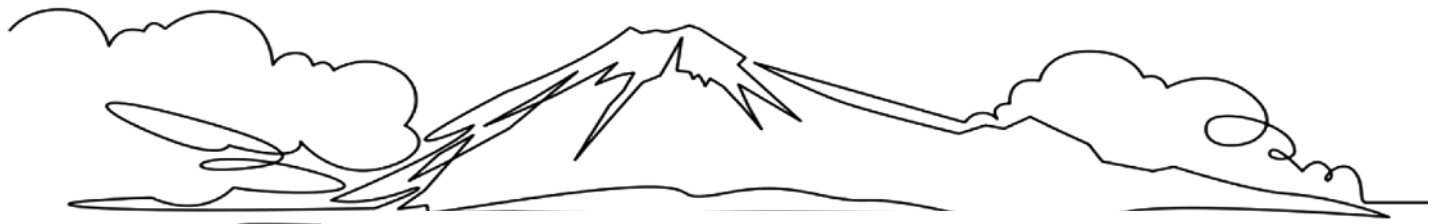
UNLEASH YOUR INNER EXPLORER

check out: <https://www.travelsouthdakota.com>



The Jedediah Smith Corral is excited to welcome you to the Black Hills of South Dakota! Please poke around the website- JSCorral.com to find details on the Gather. At the bottom of the home page you will find a link to "Hot Springs Info," which will give you detailed information on these gems.

in beautiful and historic
Hot Springs, South Dakota



Westerners have lots to see and do.....

Wednesday registration will be at the Pioneer Museum in Hot Springs, a locally quarried sandstone school house that opened in 1893. It opened with electric lights, indoor toilets, and coal-driven steam heat. A new school was built in 1961, and the building became a museum. It is open 9 to 5, except Sundays.

The Pioneer Museum in Hot Springs, SD.

For those who can come early or stay after, here are a few additional treats offered:
For the golfers, Hot Springs offers a tremendous 18 hole golf course. See the video at <https://hotspringssdgolf.com>.

For the historians who appreciate learning about waaay back to the Ice Age, the Mammoth Site in Hot Springs is a must see. <https://mammothsite.org>. This site is world renown and is often written up in science textbooks. Another Ice Age venue in Hot Springs is the World Fossil Finder Museum. You can check it out online: worldfossilfindermuseum.com

Fall River, which runs through Hot Springs, never freezes. Two places to try out the warm water are: evansplunge.com, which has been in continuous operation for 135 years and mocasinsprings.com, a spa that features six outdoor soaking pools ranging in temperatures from 80 to 105 degrees, yoga, massage, and luscious food. Pre-purchase soak passes online, as they often sell out.

For the Great Depression historians, **Hill City** is home to the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum of South Dakota, located at 23935 Hwy. 385, Hill City. Online: southdakotaccc.org One of the finest collections of original CCC memorabilia in the country, it is run entirely by volunteers. Admission is by donation.

Westerners should know that the Leland Case Library, Black Hills State University, Spearfish, SD, contains the original founding papers of **Westerners International** as well as Leland Case's many papers. Here is the contact information and finding aid:

LORI J. TERRILL, MLS, MA
Special Collections Librarian/Archivist
Leland D. Case Library for Western Historical Studies
Black Hills State University
1200 University Street, Unit 9676
Spearfish, SD 57799-9676

E. Y. Berry Library-Learning Center, Room 015
605-642-6361 | Lori.Terrill@BHSU.edu
www.BHSU.edu/Archives

CORRAL NEWS



CALL FOR CORRAL AND POSSE UPDATES

Please send us your notices and announcements on upcoming or past corral and posse programs and events. We love to spread the good news to other corrals and posses about the activities of their fellow Westerners!

CORRAL HIGHLIGHTS



The Spokane Corral, Washington, visited the Hudson Bay Company Fort Colville and St. Pauls Mission sight in Kettle Falls, Washington on a recent day tour. The HBC trading post traded furs and grew grains and animals for trade. It operated from 1825-1871. Historian Barraca discussed Hudson Bay Company's business, the role of Catholic missionaries, notable persons like David Thompson, a British Canadian explorer, fur trader and cartographer, and his contribution to trade on the Columbia River and his exploration of the Pacific Northwest. Thompson developed and built large custom cedar canoes used to transport furs down the river. And finally the impact to the local tribes in the area.

above photos: Joe Barraca, president of the Stevens County Heritage Network served as host on the grounds and the newly opened Kettle Falls museum.

Some of the summer programs of the **Pikes Peak Posse of Westerners** included: 'Spirits of Sunnyside.' Presented by Victor Lowell. Also, 'Fruit Culture in Colorado and the McAllister's Role in its Development' . The Presenter was Eric Metzger of the McAllister House Museum.

Brian Dervin Dillon, Ph.D. of the Los Angeles Corral will make a presentation to the Fresno Archaeological Society, October 6, 2025 about the "Maya, Ancient and Modern 3,000+ Years of Prehistory, History, and Ethnology". He will also present "An American Heroine Behind the Lines with Alice Chong in Hawaii and China, 1909-1972" on October 15, 2025 for the **Garden of the Sun Corral** of Fresno, California.

Last June **Dr. Dillon** kicked off the first of two annual book sale fundraisers for the **Los Angeles Corral** Funds raised will support the publication efforts of the Corral. Featured in the book sale were not only books but five beautifully handcrafted Amerindian Bolos that had been anonymously donated to the **Los Angeles Corral**. The sale was at the International Printing Museum in Carson, CA.

- November 2025, Dr. Dillon will present his presentation on his "Hippie Years" and growing up "Hippie" in San Francisco in the 60's.
- The next **L.A. Corral Branding Iron** is almost ready for publication. The lead article is by **Brian Dillon** on "Fighting' Bob Evans".
- And if that's not enough; Brian is close to completion of his next book titled **Shootin' Irons**. Release date is forthcoming.

**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION** 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

Come join us in 2025 at the second-most iconic
historical site in Texas,
October 10-11

The Horsehead Crossing Celebration Returns!

Fort Stockton, Texas

For inquires about our upcoming 2025 event, please e-mail
Betty Damron. Or goodnightlovingtrailinc@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you!!!

more

CORRAL NEWS



The **Palo Duro Corral**, Amarillo, Texas, met in July and heard **Terry Stevens** present "Three Rivers Petroglyph Site". The Three Rivers Petroglyphs are outstanding examples of prehistoric Jornada Mogollon rock art. The basaltic ridge rising above the Three Rivers Valley contains over 21,000 petroglyphs, including masks, sunbursts, wildlife, handprints, and geometric designs.

photo left - A petroglyph at Three Rivers Petroglyphs Site

Thanks to "**Hoss**" **Tucker** of the **Kansas City Posse** for sending updates to the Home Ranch! In May, the Posse hosted George Pettigrew, of the first Kansas Colored Infantry, and Isaac Johnson, who is the great grandson of an 1867 Buffalo Soldier. In June, the Posse featured Gene T. Chavez, who spoke on "The Santa Fe Trail and the Capitalistas." Their July program was from John A. Dillingham who spoke on the Kansas City Stockyards history. The program was recorded, so you can watch it here:
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox?projector=1>

photo right - John Dillingham



The **English Westerners Society** reports that their long-time member, **Chuck Parsons**, has passed away. Chuck was a "first-class researcher, engaging author, and a genuinely nice guy." The next **English Westerners Society Brand Book** will feature his article, "The Jacobs Brothers: Texas Reconstruction Lawmen." We at the Home Ranch extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends. We know that he will be deeply missed.

In July, the **English Westerners Society** had an interesting program from historian, Mark Lee Gardner, who discussed the "Life of Jesse James and the 1876 Northfield Raid." You can find updates on the Society on their Facebook page. Have a look!

In June, the **Ft. Worth Westerners** featured **Gary Pinkerton**, speaking on "Bridles and Biscuits: Contraband Culture in Spanish East Texas." In July, they hosted **Doug Hocking** from the **Cochise County Corral** in Arizona, who spoke on "The Exploits of the High Five Gang." And in August, William E. Moore presented a program on "The Texas Calaboose and Other Forgotten Jails." In September, they plan a presentation from Peter Martinez on "Fort Worth Mexican American History," and they will host Ray Sumner on October 21, who will speak on "The Sand Creek Massacre."

Garry L. Nall Lecture Series

with Char Miller

"Flood and Fire, Deluge and Drought: Environmental History and Watershed Lessons from the Edwards Plateau" Thursday, September 18th,
7:00pm - Legacy Hall
Jack B. Kelley Building
West Texas A&M University, Canyon, Texas

West Texas A&M University.

C&W

CENTER FOR THE STUDY
OF THE AMERICAN WEST



Feb. 19-21, 2026: A Gathering As Big As Texas

Live music & poetry in two historic Texas towns on the same weekend
Alpine: Heart of the Big Bend & Bastrop: History on the River
find out more at: <https://lonestarcowboypoetry.com>

2024 WESTERNERS AWARDS (awarded Fall 2025)

Congratulations to all of this year's winners.

Hearty thanks to the many members who submitted award entries! We had high numbers of entries in many of the categories, so decisions were challenging!

We hope you're looking at your corral's or posse's 2025 accomplishments for submission in early 2026!! Awards will be handed out at the Sept 17-21 Gather in Hot Springs, South Dakota. All awards that are not picked up in person will be sent by US mail to the recipients.

**Co-Founders Best Book Award****First Place**

Craig Crease, *The Wanderer: James Butler Hickok and the American West*
Caxton Press, 2024
Kansas City Posse

Second Place

Abraham Hoffman, *Fifty Years in the Los Angeles Corral*
Los Angeles Westerners, 2024
Los Angeles Corral

"Coke" Wood Award for Historical Monograph or Published Article**First Place: Tie**

Brian Dervin Dillon, "Four Short Articles in the Cowboy Couture Theme"
The Branding Iron
Los Angeles Westerners, 2024
Los Angeles Corral

First Place : Tie

Doug Hocking, "The Bridge at Apache Pass"
Desert Tracks
Southern Trails Chapter, Oregon-California Trails Assoc., 2024
Cochise County Corral

Second Place:

William P. MacKinnon
"Billy the Kid:
The Utah War Adventures of William F. Cody and William Kelly, 1857-1902"
Overland Journal
Oregon-California Trails Association, 2024
Santa Barbara Corral

Third Place

Chuck Lanehart
"Quanah Parker and the Battle of Blanco Canyon"
Lubbock Avalanche Journal
Morris Publishing Group, 2024
Llano Estacado Corral

Phillip A. Danielson Award for Best Presentation or Program

(award goes to the hosting corral or posse)

First Place

Cochise County Corral
Sheriff, Liz Severn
For presentation by Doug Hocking
"Escape from Mesilla"

Second Place

The Palo Duro Corral
Sheriff, Mike Pacino
For presentation by Laurel K. Vartabedian
"The Northern Cheyenne Exodus: 1878"

Third Place

Jedediah Smith Corral
Sheriff, Cal Larive
For presentation by Philip Wells, "Uriah Luallin:
Best-Unknown Historical Character in South Dakota"

Heads Up Award**Larger Corral**

Denver Posse
Sheriff, Keith Dameron

Heads Up Award**Smaller Corral**

Spokane Corral
Sheriff, Dick Jensen

Fred Olds Award for Cowboy Poetry**First Place**

Gary Turner
"Saddles, Hats, and Spurs – I Wanna Be a Cowboy"
The Branding Iron, 2024
Los Angeles Corral



Bonney, adjusting to retirement

REMINDER OF NEW CONTACT INFORMATION FOR WESTERNERS!!!

PLEASE NOTE:

After May 31, we had a new email address and USPS mailing address. Our new information was included in the June Bulletin and is listed again below.

NEW EMAIL FOR THE HOME RANCH:

WesternersHomeRanch@gmail.com

NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

2200 4th Ave
Box 309
Canyon TX 79015

PHONE NUMBER (remains the same!) : 806-654-6920

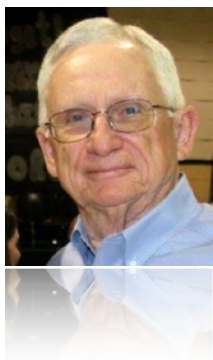
This number gets you through to Delinda King, WI Secretary/
Treasurer

Please note that my previous personal email – bmacdonald@wtamu.edu – can no longer be used. Why? Because I retired as of June 1! So please contact me through the above Home Ranch email. I'll miss the community, my students, and my colleagues but will soon have more time for my horses and dogs here on the ranch, and more time for Westerners!

Bonney

CALLING ALL CORRALS AND POSSES!!

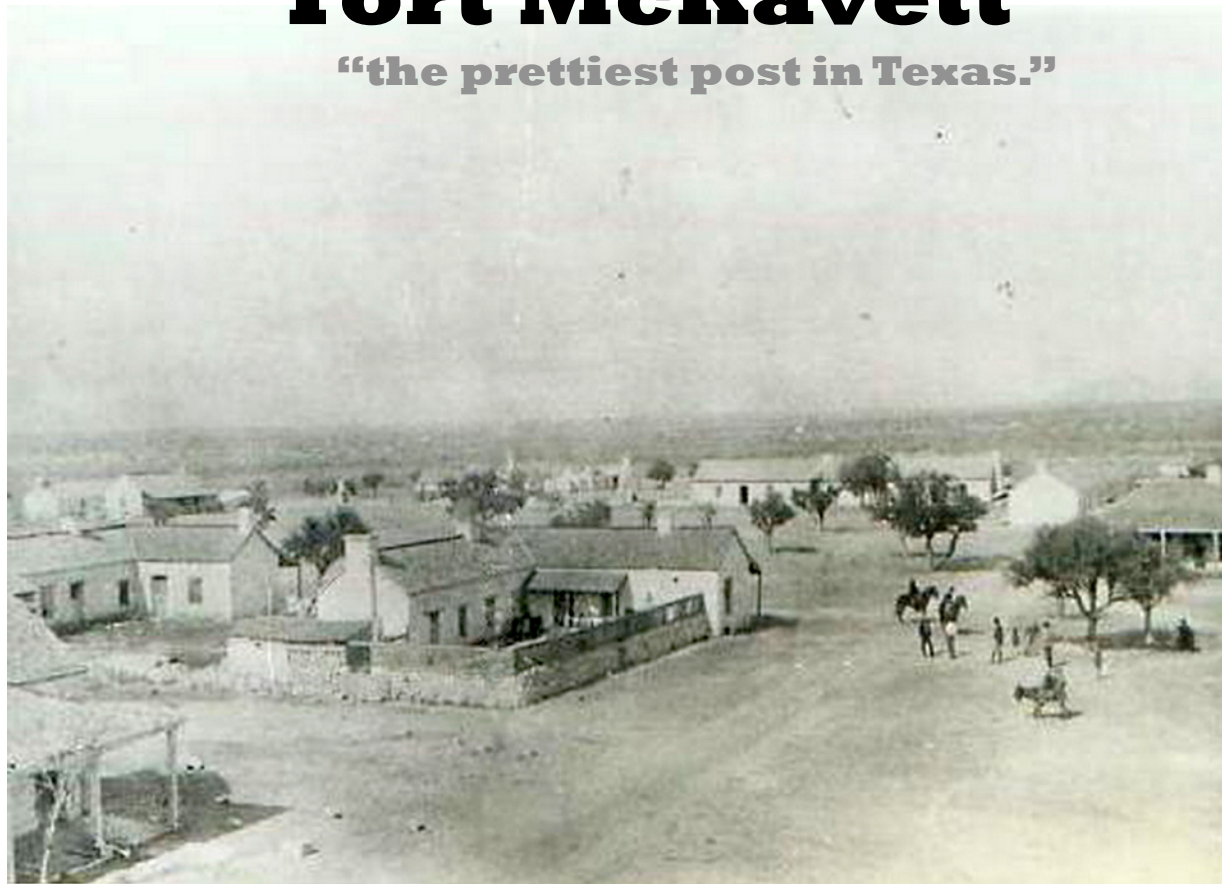
*Do you have, in your area, historical sites and enriching stories to tell others about the West and your town? And would you like to share it with other Westerners members? Then why not think of hosting our next Gather in 2027?! There are previous corrals and posses who have hosted and would be happy to be your mentors; and members would all love to hear about Western history and culture in your area. Contact us at the Home Ranch; we'd love to talk with you about it! **WesternersHomeRanch@gmail.com***



Jim Jennings grew up in Sweetwater, Texas and graduated from Texas A&M University. Jim and his wife Mavis reside in Amarillo, Texas. He is a member of the Palo Duro Corral and serves the Corral as Keeper of the Chips. Jim is a renowned western writer and a long-time western historian. Jim is retired as Executive Director of Publications for the American Quarter Horse Association and continues to write and is currently

Fort McKavett

“the prettiest post in Texas.”



In the middle of the 19th century, southwest Texas belonged to the Comanche Indians. And it had ever since the Comanche pretty well ran most of the Apache out in the mid 1700s. The area wasn't necessarily a home to the Comanche, but they made periodic raids through there, coming down from their homes in North Texas and the Texas Panhandle to steal horses and captives from the early Spanish settlers. But in 1836, Texas won its independence from Mexico, and in 1845, it was accepted into the Union as a state. Then, in 1848, following the Mexican-American War, the

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo established the Rio Grande as Texas' western border. After that, it was inevitable that civilization would spread westward from central Texas, and that spread was hampered by only one thing, the Comanche.

In 1849, Captain William Henry Chase Whiting took a group of men and explored a route from San Antonio to the San Saba River and on to El Paso. Following his expedition, he recommended that a force of 2,000 mounted troops be furnished to guard the frontier, and that 300 of those troops be located at an

old Spanish fort on the San Saba River. The army did establish a line of posts among the settlements in 1849, but it became quickly evident that most of the forts were located too far east to give even mounted troops a chance to do anything about the raiders except chase them after they had struck. The army's answer to this problem was to abandon most of the original forts and to construct a second series of posts farther west.

On December 16, 1851, General Persivor Smith, who was the United States military commander in Texas, ordered the construction of two military posts, one on the San Saba River and one on the Concho River. He said that the one on the San Saba was to be at the headsprings of that river near the El Paso road and at the western extremity of the woodland that lines the river bank. The 8th Infantry, commanded by Colonel Thomas Staniford, to which the order was directed, arrived at the headwaters of the San Saba on March 14, 1852, and chose a small hill near a pond of permanent water as a site for the new post.

Construction on the post began, but by the end of May the pond had become stagnant and the post was relocated to a more suitable site near a large spring about two miles downstream. In the beginning, the post was called Camp on the San Saba, but by October it had been named Camp McKavett and then Fort McKavett. It was so named in honor of Captain Henry McKavett, a young officer who had been killed in the Mexican War.

Construction during the first year set the basic outline of the post, which was located on 640 acres that was leased from the owner for \$600 per year. The first structures were five barracks for quartering the infantrymen: three on the north side of a 400-square-foot parade ground and one each on the northwest and northeast corners. A number of kitchens, which were utilized as temporary officers' quarters, were erected on the west, south and east sides of the parade ground, and a hospital was built to the southwest. A quartermaster's storehouse was built on the northeast.

Materials used in the construction were stone and wood, with the wood being mostly pecan and oak. During the first year, the buildings had no floors, glass windows or doors, but material for these purposes was

later freighted 100 miles from Fredericksburg. The soldiers performed all the construction, and each company was responsible for the erection of its own quarters, including those of its officers. However, the entire garrison participated in the construction of the general use buildings.

By 1856, new construction consisted of a permanent guardhouse, additional kitchens, an adjutant's office, officers' quarters, a two-story quarters for the commanding officer, a sutler's store, a new bakery and a mule yard. Laundress' quarters were also constructed. It was common for a woman to do the laundry of 19 men for one dollar a month each, plus housing and food. It's interesting that these women made \$19 or more a month, while an army private made \$13.

Three regiments served at Fort McKavett during the decade of the 1850s: the 8th Infantry, which established the post and built the first structures; the 2nd Dragoons, which was a mounted troop; and the 1st Infantry. Military activity against hostile Indians at Fort McKavett during the 1850s was concentrated on scouting excursions and pursuit of occasional raiding parties. But catching the raiding parties was difficult before the 2nd Dragoons were assigned to the post. The previous garrison consisted only of infantry, which was pretty well ineffective against the mounted Indians.

In the spring of 1854, the mounted dragoons from Fort McKavett, along with soldiers from forts Inge and Chadbourne, took the field to patrol the area on a regular basis, but still their patrols did little to stop the Indian raids.

Then, in 1856, several of the bands of Indians agreed to be placed on reservations near Fort Belknap, and the Army, thinking the danger was over, replaced the mounted dragoons at Fort McKavett with the 1st Infantry. However, all the Indians didn't stay on the reservations and some raids still occurred. I suspect those mounted Comanche, which were considered to be the best horsemen in the world, laughed at the pursuit by the foot soldiers.

But by 1858, Indian activity had diminished in the San Saba Valley. Instead, it was concentrated further north along that frontier. As a result, the Army decided



New posts were built and a number of the old forts were reopened. Fort McKavett was reoccupied on April 1, 1868, when Company A, 4th Cavalry arrived on the banks of the San Saba, only to find the existing buildings extremely run down. The

to abandon Fort McKavett. The defense of the San Saba Valley fell into the hands of the state forces, like the Texas Rangers and the local settlers.

Then, in 1861, Texas seceded from the Union and joined the Confederacy. Most of its state soldiers were sent to fight for the cause of the South, which left the frontier virtually defenseless. Even with a substantial force provided temporarily by the Confederate State of Texas, the overall protection of the frontier was reduced. And with the absence of a strong military establishment, the Indians grew bolder. In most areas of the frontier, farms were abandoned and the fringes of settlement receded backwards up to 100 miles.

The scattered settlers around Fort McKavett held their ground, however, and many of them moved into structures that had been abandoned by the army, living in some of them and using the others as barns for shelter of their cattle and hogs. To defend themselves from the Indians, the men of Fort McKavett organized a loosely structured company of minutemen, and they were able to hold out throughout the war.

But following the war, again because of the Indians, the Army was once again sent to the western frontier.

company surgeon reported that the post was a mass of ruins, with only one house habitable. As a result, the whole command had to be quartered in tents.

The only habitable house was the commanding officer's quarters, which had been lived in during the war by the land owner from which the army was leasing. The surgeon, in his report, said that the officers' quarters were totally unlivable, that the soldiers' barracks were beyond repair, that the guardhouse was too dilapidated to be effective, and that the hospital was unusable. Two framed and floored tents were hastily constructed to serve as medical facilities, and reconstruction of the other buildings began.

During the first months of reoccupation, duties of all of the troops were centered on reconstruction of the old buildings instead of participating in patrols to protect the frontier. And those duties were continued with the addition in late April of the 38th Infantry – one of the new units that consisted of black enlisted personnel and white officers. The black soldiers were called Buffalo Soldiers, a term attributed to the Comanche.

The following year, 1869, Colonel Ranald Mackenzie arrived to take command of the fort, and with him was the 41st Infantry, another Buffalo Soldier unit. The 41st Infantry was a well-drilled regiment when it arrived at Fort McKavett, but was new to frontier warfare. The 38th, however, had substantial western service. In September, the two units were combined to form the 24th Infantry.

Mackenzie imported five civilian carpenters and six stonemasons who, together with the soldiers of the 24th Infantry, began substantial improvement and expansion of the post. Soon it was considered to be one of the best in Texas, or as General Sherman described it, “the prettiest post in Texas.”

Mackenzie launched several expeditions from Fort McKavett during the time he commanded the post. At least one of those was a joint venture of the 24th Infantry and the 9th Cavalry, which was another regiment of black enlisted men and white officers that was stationed at the fort throughout Mackenzie’s tenure. In another action, 9th Cavalry Sergeant Emanuel Stance, while leading a patrol from Fort McKavett, directed his detachment of 10 troopers in two engagements with Indian raiders on successive days. Stance led three charges, two of them in the same action and all of them successful. As a result, he became the first black soldier to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

As was the case with many Texas frontier posts, a civilian settlement grew up next to Fort McKavett. This was a collection of ramshackle buildings across the river from the post, where soldiers could find those vices that the fort’s sutler was not allowed to provide. The community became known as Scabtown. Of course, there have always been conflicts between soldiers and civilians, and Scabtown was no exception, but this was made worse by the fact that nearly all the soldiers were black and the citizens of Scabtown were

white. There were many racial incidences, but one of the most serious was the murder of three of the soldiers.

By 1880, the Indian threat was pretty well over, and in 1882, the post was ordered abandoned. But when the last soldiers marched away in 1883, Fort McKavett did not die nor fall to ruin, as it had the last time the post was abandoned. Local civilians moved into the officers’ quarters, barracks and other military structures and the post sutler remained as proprietor of a general mercantile store. While the camp followers who lived in Scabtown did move away, the few stable businessmen moved their wares across the river and set up shop in abandoned post buildings. Fort McKavett soon emerged as a commercial trade center for the scattered sheep, goat and cattle ranchers in the area.

However, the town never became well known, and the community’s population peaked at about 150 citizens in the 1920s.

In 1967, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department began acquiring the old post buildings and established Fort McKavett State Historic Site.

To find out more about Fort McKavett or plan a trip to the site, check out:

<https://thc.texas.gov/historic-sites/fort-mckavett>



from the
Westerner International Mercantile
 your store just got a little bigger with more merchandise!



items, left

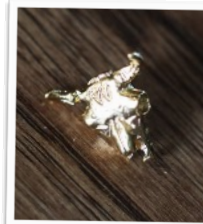
- Five Panel Twill Cap, adjustable.....\$25.00
- 7x9" Rawhide Portfolio with stamped logo.....\$38.00
- Notepads w/Western logo.....\$4.00

Items, right & below

- Lapel pin with pin clasp\$13.00
- "Past Sheriff" lapel pin\$13.00
- Bolo Tie with leather band\$25.00
- Lucite paper weight\$17.00
- T-Shirts/round or v-neck\$25.00
- Polo Shirt\$45.00
- Bandanas\$7.00
- Decal 3"\$4.00
- Cap -adjustable size.....\$30.00

(Price includes free shipping!)
 shirt sizes available in small,
 medium, large and extra large

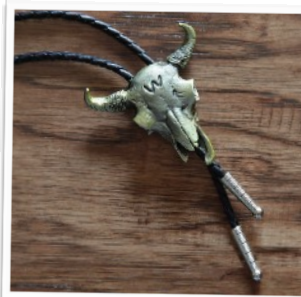
If you would like to place an order or send
 payment, contact:
Delinda King, WI Secretary,
Westerners International
 at delinda.king70@gmail.com or call at
 806-654-6920



lapel pin



past sheriff's pin pin



bolo tie



lucite paper weight



tee shirt



white v-neck



3" Decals



Westerner cap



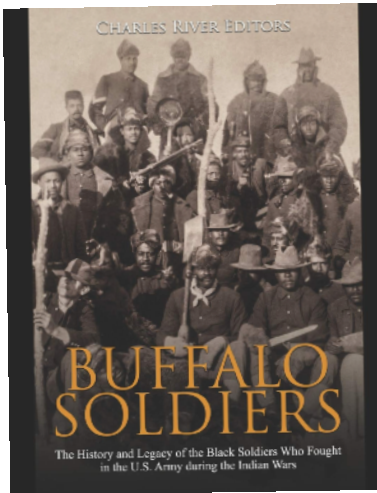
Polo shirt



white bandana

BOOK NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



Buffalo Soldiers: The History and Legacy of the Black Soldiers Who Fought in the U.S. Army during the Indian Wars compiled by Charles River Editors

Paperback – December 20, 2019

price \$11.50

During the Civil War, over 180,000 black men fought in volunteer units as part of the United States Colored Troop (USCT), but it was only after the end of it that they were allowed to enlist in the Regular Army. They did so in four segregated regiments, and they colloquially became known as Buffalo Soldiers.

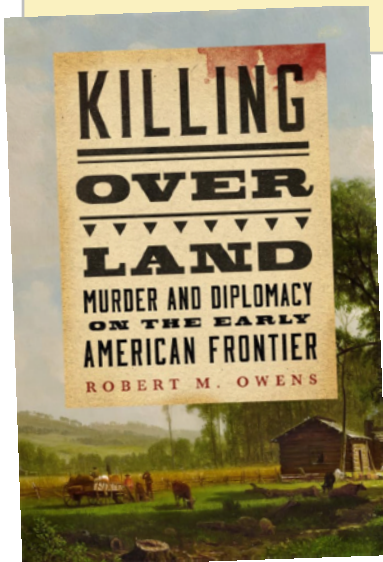
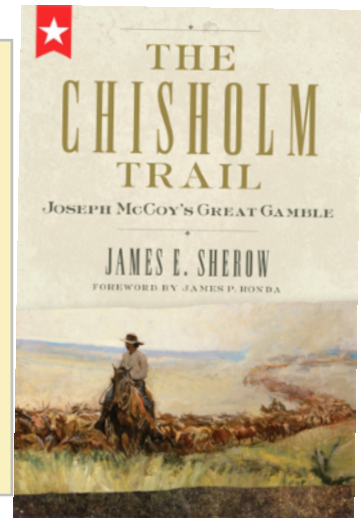
The Chisholm Trail: Joseph McCoy's Great Gamble By James E. Sherow

360 PAGES | 6 X 9 | 43 B&W ILLUS., 3 MAPS, 7 CHARTS, 5 TABLES

Paperback

\$21.95 9780806195551 2025

One hundred fifty years ago the McCoy brothers of Springfield, Illinois, bet their fortunes on Abilene, Kansas, then just a slapdash way station. Instead of an endless horizon of prairie grasses, they saw a bustling outlet for hundreds of thousands of Texas Longhorns coming up the Chisholm Trail—and the youngest brother, Joseph, saw how a middleman could become wealthy in the process. This is the story of how that gamble paid off, transforming the cattle trade and, with it, the American landscape and diet



Killing over Land: Murder and Diplomacy on the Early American Frontier Hardcover

– February 20, 2024

by Robert M. Owens (Author)

In early America, interracial homicide—whites killing Native Americans, Native Americans killing whites—might result in a massive war on the frontier; or, if properly mediated, it might actually facilitate diplomatic relations, at least for a time. In *Killing over Land*, Robert M. Owens explores why and how such murders once played a key role in Indian affairs and how this role changed over time.

If you've read a particularly fascinating book that you think might be of interest to other Westerners, please share it with your Buckskin Bulletin inkslinger at: kenneth.pirtle@me.com so I can add it to the Book News section of

BOOK & PUBLICATION NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



The Pikes Peak Inkspot
The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners

May 4, 2024 Volume 3 Number 5

They said they were "only" going to stay for two weeks this year. But the last time they visited, they saw most of the big attractions. So, how are you going to entertain those flatland cousins?

You are in luck! Welcome to the Summer Vacation issue of the Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners Inkspot. There is so much history to be seen and shared in our beautiful corner of the world! A lot of local summer activities follow the "Around Town" feature. For those of us who enjoy leisurely drives along the Internet Highway, the URLs are included for more information.

The "Spotlight" is on Bonnie Kinnel, long-time Posse member. Her enthusiastic descriptions of western adventures got me started thinking about what I want to do and where to go this year!

David Hartinek will tell us about A. E. Carlton, "King of Cripple Creek" on May 22. Check out "It Happened in May" for interesting bits from Cripple Creek and Victor over the years.

Who knows what the Posse Quizmaster Machine will generate? Enjoy the search as you read through this issue.

Perhaps there will be a new western history article to enjoy in June? As the Ink Slinger, I have fun being creative with items I think folks in the Posse will enjoy. **Historic**, the Posse boasts quite a number of well-known specialists in local and regional history. Please contact the Ink Slinger if you have an article to share.

<https://pikespeakposse.com/inkspot>

The Inkspot - Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners



The Pikes Peak Inkspot
The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners

July 1, 2025 Volume 3 Number 7

Get to Know Your Westerners...

Meet the Clausen Family

The Clausen siblings come by their love of history naturally. Of the seven Clausen children, five of us live in Colorado Springs - and four are members of the Pikes Peak Posse. We inherited our love of history from our parents, Betty and Henry Clausen. Both of them were widely read and we all had access to many books from Clausen's Bookshop in downtown Colorado Springs, which specialized in Western Americana. Betty Henry and Betty were members of the local Ghost Town Club, dedicated to Colorado history. As kids, we were treated to Sunday drives to Colorado ghost towns (Guthrie comes to mind) and other locales of historical note. We remember many drives on the Gold Camp Road and the Rampart Range Road. No "young traps" for us!

Though the Clausen family got its start in Colorado, we Clausen siblings grew up in Colorado Springs. We lived near the Garden of the Gods, on the westside, in Austin Bluffs, and finally near downtown. Mom and Dad had many horses. Mom and Dad, when the kids, Ellen, was four years old in ensuing years, along came Anne, John, and I.

His invited to become a member of the Posse. I am happy making trips to Denver to articles for the Denver Westerners Club because one of the charter members from we had about Colorado or Western

Henry A. Clausen in his bookshop. Photographer: Miron Wood

Page 1

The Pikes Peak Corral is a well informed bunch due primarily to the group's outstanding publication **The Pikes Peak Inkspot**. Shown here are recent issues, full of information of upcoming meetings, articles on local history and Corral news. The Sheriff for the Pikes Peak Corral is **Ron Thomas**, Round-up Foreman and Media Wrangler is **Bob DeWitt**. Ink Slinger is **Nancy Prince**. Great job, ya'll!

The Pikes Peak Inkspot
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July 1, 2025 Volume 3 Number 7

Summer Traditions

We might have different memories of the perfect time—the 4th of July barbeque, rafting down a mountain river, checking out the farmer's market. For the Ink Slinger, it was a trip to Grandma's farm on the bluff above the Arkansas River in Crowley County. We watched him move the irrigation siphon from one row to the other, helped carry milk from the barn to the house, filled up on Grandma's fried chicken and bread and butter pickles, and but still found room for ice cold Rocky Ford watermelon.

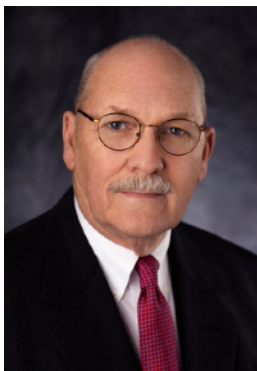
Those memories provide background for the July speaker Mike Callicrate. A modern-day rancher/businessman, he will address some of the challenges and opportunities he sees in the current food production and distribution cycle.

The conclusion of William A. Richards' saga on pages 5 to 7 highlight his time in Colorado Springs and on homestead land in Wyoming Big Horn country. His experiences as an arid-environment rancher and policy maker were important to Will when he became the fourth Governor of Wyoming over 100 years ago.

Special Inkspot Spotlight this issue: The Murray Hall of the Masonic Temple provides a place for the Posse to gather every month. As the Temple was dedicated 52 years ago last March, it is appropriate to consider the history of this "character" in the history of the Posse.

<https://pikespeakposse.com/inkspot>

The Inkspot - Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners



Greetings from your **Buckskin Bulletin** editor, Kenneth Pirtle. It is with pride that I put together these newsletters four times a year for **Westerners International**. I regularly check my email for Corral updates and news to include in the "BB" and share with our membership. Please share your **WI** news and activities to me at kenneth.pirtle@me.com or the Home Ranch at westerners@mail.wtamu.edu so I can include it in the upcoming issue.

The digital **Buckskin Bulletin** (PDF) is now sent to your Sheriff or Corral representative from the Home Ranch. The Home Ranch is dependent on current email addresses and we ask that you keep your Corral information updated. Hopefully the **Buckskin Bulletin** is getting distributed among your local membership. I would humbly request that you read your "BB" and share it when you have the opportunity. Happy Trails, KP