



FREEMONT STREET MAIL

August 10, 2026

Roundup Foreman's Trumpet
Gary Smith



There will be an optional no host
pre-meeting dinner 5:30 at the
Longhorn Restaurant on Allen Street.
The public and guests are welcome to join us!



COCHISE COUNTY CORRAL OF THE WESTERNERS

September 3rd, 7PM at Schieffelin Hall

FREE

Presenter:
Doug Hocking

Butterfield Overland Mail Across Chiricahua Apache Country 1858-1861



In 1858, the Butterfield Overland Mail carried the first transcontinental post from St. Louis (& Memphis) to San Francisco in under 25 days. The mail often went through despite raids by Confederates, Mexicans and Apaches. Spur Award Winning Author and historian, Doug Hocking, will tell this fascinating story of determination, bravery and guile.

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Editorial Comments Lindsey Zimmerman

Greetings, All –

The *Freemont Street Mail*, my new & exciting contribution to the Corral, is really looong... This can cause issues in its distribution. Too many migidy bits or something... In an effort to remedy this, you will always see a list of Coming Events, but will see only more info or flyers for events during the month of the issue, and the following one. There may be exceptions, such as when space is limited at an event. For marking your calendars months ahead of time, you should refer to the list. Under Telegrapher's Code there is a good list of links you can use to check out for yourself more info on future events you're interested in. Also, if you see or hear of something you think will be of interest to your fellow Ranch Hands, don't hesitate to contact me at: slzimm53@gmail.com or text me (425) 327-5124.

I loved Becky's lecture! She's great!

Happy Trails, til We Meet Again!



You Tube & Last Campfire Doug Hocking



Founding Ranch Hand Christine Rhodes attended Corral with her son.

After complaints about the meeting running long, **Sheriff Liz** made a valiant, concerted effort to keep things moving. The synopsis of the business meeting at the start, was short & concise. The members voted quickly & unanimously on ordering 500 brochures for the Corral, to be distributed to local businesses and potential Corral members.

Through officers' emails, another suggestion was for only one poem. Strong resistance from the Corral changed that suggestion to: *An individual can only read one poem.* **Both Bob & Mark each read poems to everyone's laughter & happiness.**

Our Telegrapher, who looks more like a cowboy every time we see him (found the hat he was looking for too!), was prompted off-stage after giving a thorough and enthusiastic rundown on things happening. Talk faster & git! Thanks, Ric.

Becky Orozco delivered a well-received talk on **A History of Conflict: Camp Naco, the Bisbee Deportation & World Wars.**

So informative, fact-filled, and containing lots of personal connections to her family – some relatives even in pictures – made for a really great presentation. She also informed us of a multi-million dollar grant for Camp Naco's ongoing restoration and its ability to provide history about our borderlands here in Cochise County.



There were about 45 folks in attendance, and no youtube for lack of the camera.

Keeper of the Chips
Debora Lewis



Account Reconciled

63 Ranch Hands paid for 2026
Checking: \$3215.04
Savings: \$1022.06
Income 7/1-7/29/26: \$258.38
Expenses 7/1-7/29/26: \$ 57.73
Profit \$200.65

Website Metrics:

www.CochiseCountyCorral.org

July:

Visitors 223, with 51 in last 7 days
58 Social Views, with 36 in the last 7 days
We scored in the top 80% of all non-profit
websites for visitors!

Recorder of Marks & Brands
Doug Hocking for Jean



Officers for Next Year: Deputy Sheriff Bob Kleinschmidt is in charge of recruiting officers for 2027. The elected officers include: Sheriff, Recorder of Marks and Brands, Keeper of the Chips, Ink Slinger, Roundup Foreman, Trail Boss, Statutory Agent and Corral Rep. A slate of officers will be presented in October for election in November. See our Deputy Sheriff if you're interested.

There has been a great deal of correspondence of folks congratulating the Corral on the *Fremont Street Mail* and *Border Vidette* as well as signing up for the Tombstone Festival of Western Books.

We're forming a committee for the **Tombstone Festival of Western Books**. If you're interested in participating in the planning and decision making, contact Doug Hocking at:
dhocking@centurylink.net.

We have decided to continue being a corporation and to have a website.

The Corral will participate in the **Helldorado Parade in October**. Get your best Western duds ready. It's good fun.

The Corral **Library** will focus on becoming a **reference library or encyclopedia of the Old West** open for use by Corral Ranch Hands.

The Corral will acquire 500 professionally printed copies of a tri-fold brochure designed by Lindsey Zimmerman.

Sheriff's Star June 2026
Liz Severn



WE NEED 2027 OFFICERS!!!

Please, anybody who is willing to be the Sheriff or the Roundup Foreman stand up and help us out. I have done both jobs and can tell you what is needed and how much time it took for me:

As Roundup Foreman, I spent a good deal of time (maybe a couple of hrs a week) booking a speaker the last 3 months of the year, to at least get started for the next year. I always wanted the first 3 months of the new year filled before the end of the year. After those were filled, I usually spent 3 or 4 hrs a month looking for speakers and keeping in contact with them to make sure they could still do the job. You might want to ask Roundup Foreman Gary Smith if he has a list of possibilities. Sometimes, our Ranch Hands will suggest someone, too. Then all you have to do is talk to the possible speaker to make sure things are still set.

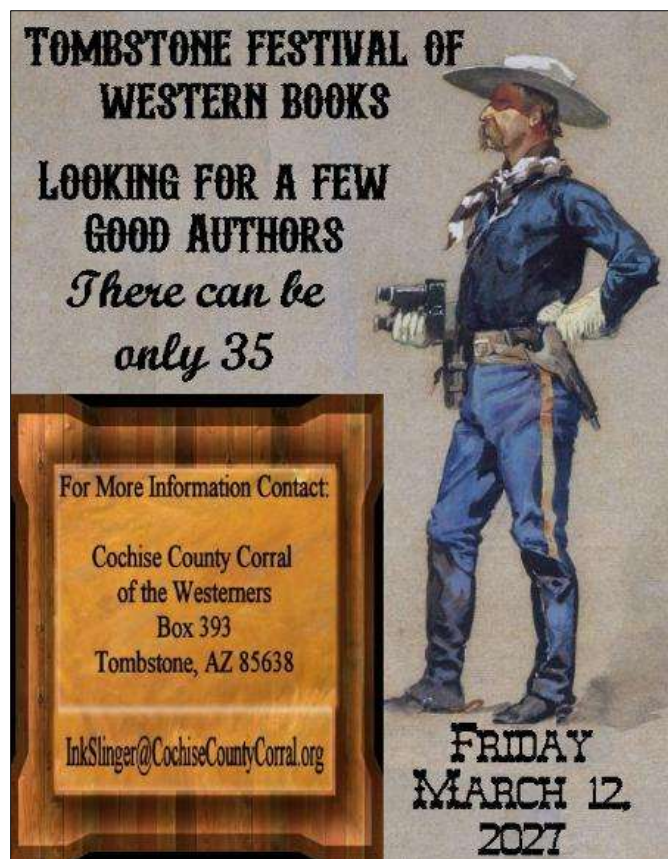
For the Sheriff job, I spend between 2 and 3 hrs getting the agenda ready for the officers' meeting before the Campfire meeting. Doug Hocking often contributes to this and is very helpful. Other officers also occasionally give topics, and I refer to my notes from the previous meeting. During the month between meetings, I spend maybe a half hour a week reading through emails that come to the Ink Slinger. Then there's conducting the officers' meeting, which takes 45 minutes to an hour, usually less. And finally, there's conducting the Campfire meeting and personally greeting any first-time visitors.

So far, Debora Lewis has only had about 30 entries for our next book, *Burning the Brand*. Debora does a great job of editing and formatting the book, too. If she has enough material, she will be getting it out toward the end of October so copies

are available for Christmas. To submit Poetry & Stories send to: lewiskirtswesterns@yahoo.com

Becky Orozco gave a wonderfully interesting presentation on Naco history and the Bisbee Deportations. Becky is one of our most entertaining speakers, and always a joy to have.

The Corral officers brought up the topic of the inactive **Library & Faro Dealer** position to the Ranch Hands present. Lindsey has been elected as the current Faro Dealer, but as you all know, has the duties of editor of our *Freemont Street Mail*. For my 2 cents, I think it might be nice to have a library that has books that our speakers have published. That way, if someone wants to know more about the topic, they can check out the book and learn more than a simple presentation will entail. (Maybe we could get them to donate a book, or maybe we could buy one as payment for their presentation since they normally aren't paid.) This is the Cochise County Corral Library and is open to every member, so we want to make sure it's what you want.



2027 Festival Recruiting Poster

Some Corral Business

It's August, and the Corral started recruiting authors for the 2027 Tombstone Festival of Western Books.

Already 11 authors have registered!

<https://cochisecountycorral.org/books-%26-book-festival>

Cochise County Corral Library

Corral officers have been having discussions on re-activating the Corral's Library. It was decided that we would begin the process with a Reference Section, and the Corral voted at the August Campfire to go ahead with planning. The idea is to carry encyclopedic-type volumes which can be referred to for info on topics of interest to folk. Hands have already donated books of this type and there has been no cost outlay. Any & all ideas from the Corral Hands are most welcome. Send them to: InkSlinger@CochiseCountyCorral.org

Design Being Currently Considered

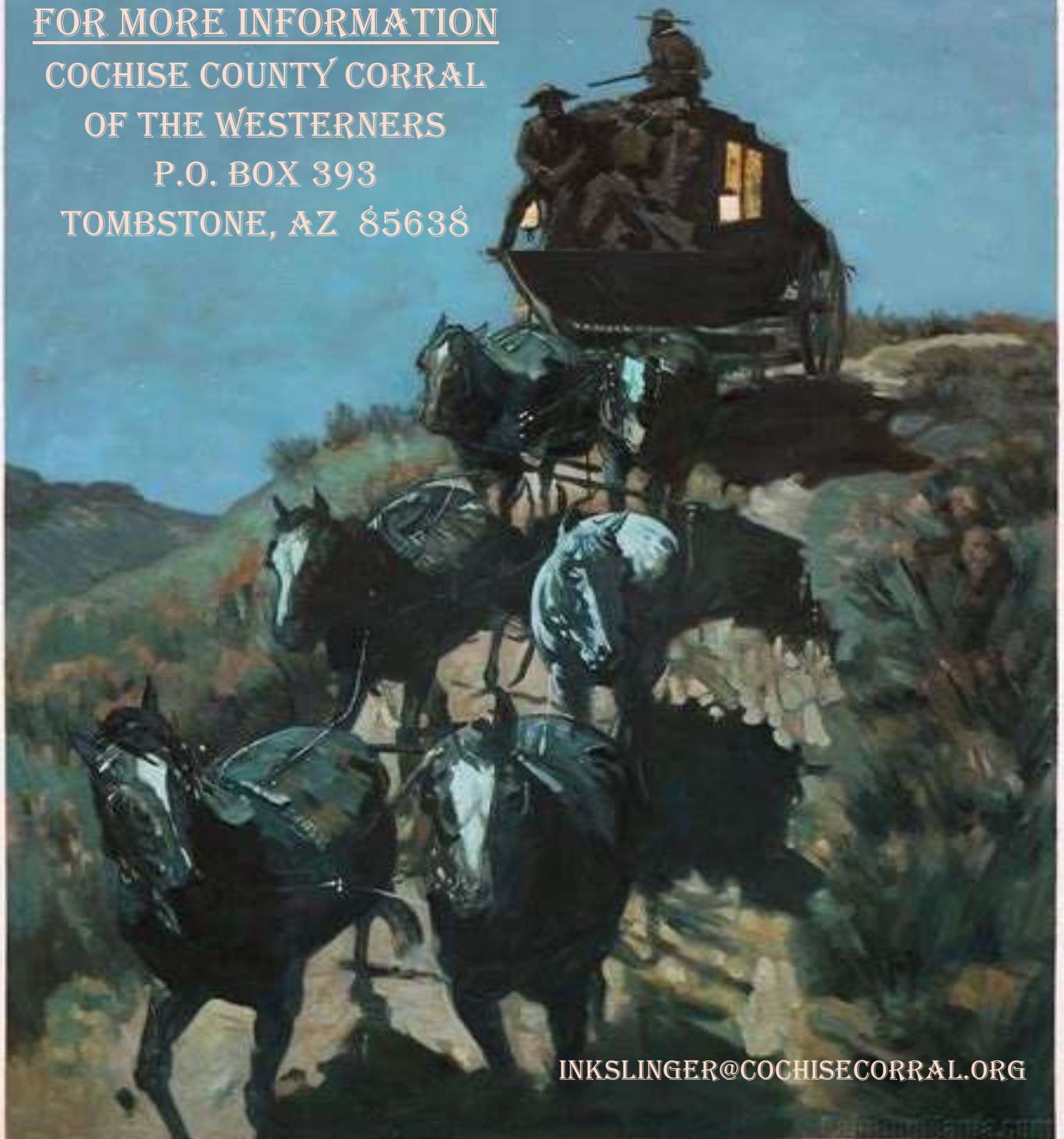


We have a preliminary design for this year's Mugs, but we invite folks to submit their ideas for the Mug (roughly 8x4). Send ideas to: InkSlinger@CochiseCountyCorral.org

**The following page is our new Poster
For next year's
Tombstone Festival of Western Books**

PENNINGMARTIN.COM
TOMBSTONE FESTIVAL OF WESTERN BOOKS
FRIDAY MARCH 12, 2027

FOR MORE INFORMATION
COCHISE COUNTY CORRAL
OF THE WESTERNERS
P.O. BOX 393
TOMBSTONE, AZ 85638



INKSLINGER@COCHISECORRAL.ORG

LOCAL NEWS



Our newest Ranch Hands, Brad and Wendi Courtney, with Stuart Rosebrook, head of the Sharlot Hall Museum and President of the Western Writers of America are on podcast and are hosting DocHolidaze in Prescott.

[Sharlot Hall Museum](https://www.sharlot-hall-museum.org/)

[tepsSnrodo26t46hgu98219h28m0i683t10mh86110t2288h145h8hlfll8](https://www.sharlot-hall-museum.org/tepsSnrodo26t46hgu98219h28m0i683t10mh86110t2288h145h8hlfll8)

What happens when someone asks, "Why has no one told this story?" That simple question led to the creation of "DocHolidaze," one of America's fastest-growing Western history symposiums.

In the latest episode of Arizona Roundup, host Stuart Rosebrook sits down with Brad and Wendy Courtney, founders of "DocHolidaze," to discuss how years of research into Doc Holliday's time in Prescott grew into a nationally recognized celebration of Western history.

The conversation explores discoveries uncovered in the Sharlot Hall Museum archives, the overlooked story of Big Nose Kate, the importance of preserving local history, and how a single historical marker inspired an event that now attracts historians, authors, researchers, and visitors from across the country. You'll also get a preview of this year's "DocHolidaze," including the Victorian Garden Party (held right here at Sharlot Hall Museum), the Wild West History Forum, guided walking tours, presentations by nationally recognized historians, grave marker dedications, and much more.

History isn't locked away in archives. It comes alive when people are willing to ask questions, preserve the past, and share the stories that shaped the American West.

To listen to the podcast, via YouTube, please click here:

<https://bit.ly/4pKx2EE>

To listen to the podcast, via Libsyn, please click here:

<https://bit.ly/3Tg0TJj>

ANOTHER END OF AN ERA – CLOSING THE COCHISE COWBOY POETRY & MUSIC GATHERING

#poetry #cowboy #coolfmlive #cochisecounty
#news

The Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering has ridden into history.

We wrapped up our 33rd and final Gathering in February 2026, bringing to a close more than three decades of celebrating the poetry, music, and spirit of the American West.

What began in 1993 as a simple experiment – to see whether the Western genre would resonate with our community – quickly proved its worth. In those early years, audiences regularly topped 1,000, filling venues with the rhythms of cowboy verse, guitar, and fiddle. Over time, however, changing tastes and competing entertainment options drew younger generations toward other venues. Our offerings, though rich in tradition, could no longer sustain the audiences needed to keep the Gathering thriving.

To our Co-Chairs who ramrodded the Gathering over the years, a special thanks: to our founder John Shaver, to Francine Bier; to BG Roy "Bud" Strom whose organizational skills truly developed the Gathering; to Steve Conroy, Bob Fusco, Mike Barker, George Wheat, and Nancy Fusco.

To every volunteer, organizer, and friend who poured heart and hard work into making the Cochise Gathering a true success, we offer our deepest gratitude. Your support and dedication carried us through the years. We also tip our hats to the many artists – sometimes as many as fifty in a single Gathering – who shared their talents and helped establish us as one of the premier events of its kind across the United States.

May the trails ahead bring you continued success and inspiration.

To our sponsors, past and present: without your steady and generous backing, these gatherings would never have reached the scale or quality they

did. You can take genuine pride in the role you played.

It is with profound sadness, yet equal pride, that the Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering Committee announces the formal closing of our Gathering. The stories, songs, and friendships forged along the way will remain part of our shared history.

Along the trail....

On a personal note –

I can't tell you how sad I was when my husband presented me with this news. For over twenty years we made a point of being in Sierra Vista at the beginning of February for two things: My mom's birthday on the 1st and the Gathering, the first weekend of the month.

My parents often hosted visiting guests with lodging, meals & transport, making for some tight quarters, but absolutely wonderful times. Talented folk.

My dad's friendship with Bud Strom so enriched our lives I can't even begin to list the ways. They served together and crossed paths for years in the Army's Intelligence Corps. Visiting Bud & Joan's Single Star Ranch (named for his being a Brigadier General upon retirement) was always a highlight of our visits. He'd traipse us around like the school kids he loved to host, and show & tell us about the historic things on the ranch. (Loved that old adobe!) He'd share owl feathers, devil's claws, and other finds with us & squawk about all the trash he had to go out and pick up after illegals passed through, cutting his fences & ignoring a million signs in Spanish pointing to the nearest gate; he'd installed several.

I sent him eagle feathers from Alaska in return. We also exchanged some poetry. He'd often threaten to get me up on the stage. Ha! Like that would ever happen! You guys see how poorly I speak, just in the front of the Corral! (Two poems I sent to Debora for inclusion in our third Corral book may make the cut & you can read them. One was for his b'day.)

Dad said that when Bud gave up the Gathering, that was the beginning of the end. His prophecy came true. They both now lie together in the old Post Cemetery, one row and one column apart. Close enough to shake hands from time to time and talk about the old days. They are both sorely missed.



Epitaph Doug Hocking

**“Another Daring Robbery”, *Tombstone Epitaph*,
25 February 1888.**

(From the *Tucson Citizen*, 23d February)

About 8 o'clock last evening, as train No. 20, west bound, was leaving Stein's Pass, two men jumped on the forward end of the mail car, next to the tender, and drawing their rifles on the engineer, ordered him to pull the train ahead about two miles. One man then jumped taking the engineer with him, and fired three shots into the ground to intimidate the train men and passengers. They then proceeded to the rear of the express car and ordered the engineer to **UNCOUPLE THE EXPRESS** from the forward sleeper and pull ahead about two miles further. Two tramps who were stealing a ride between the mail and express cars, seeing what was going on, immediately made tracks for the rear end of the train. After taking the mail and express two miles further as stated, the robbers went to the express car and ordered the messenger to open the car and deliver what money and valuables he had, which he did without arguing the question with them.

After securing their plunder, and without attempting to touch the mail car, they started off on foot taking a **SOUTHERLY DIRECTION**. The engine then backed up to the train, and ran to the first telegraph station and notified Superintendent Noble of what had occurred. The train was in the charge of Conductor McLellan, and the engineer was Col. Harper who had a similar experience in the big robbery near Pantano last April. Col. Harper evidently thinks he is fated.



PREPARATIONS FOR PURSUIT.

Superintendent Noble immediately notified the company's detective Len Harris, Marshal W.K. Meade and Sheriff Shaw. Word was also sent to San Xavier to the four Papago trailers who have been engaged by the company. In the meantime a posse had been organized, consisting of Len Harris, Marshal Meade, Sheriff Shaw, Deputy Marshal Will Smith, W. G. Worf and others, who, with horses, boarded the special and left for the scene shortly before two o'clock. An engineer was taken along to bring in Col. Harper's engine, who had been ordered to join the posse. Marshal Meade also took the two tramps back with him as they may be of some assistance in describing the robbers. The special arrived on the scene shortly after daylight this morning, and the officers commenced searching for the trail immediately.

BRAKEMAN JACKSON'S ACCOUNT

C.A. Jackson, known through Texas as "El Paso Jack," a name given him for having had a shooting scrape with train robbers on the Texas and Pacific, was the rear brakeman of the robbed train, and this was his second trip. His account of the affair is as follows: As the train pulled out of Stein's Pass, head brakeman Jerry Cerreno, saw two men, who he supposed were tramps, get on the forward end of the mail car. After quite a run he reached them but found two rifles thrown down on him, coupled with an order to get back lively. He did not know they were robbers until the train stopped about a mile from there. The robbers then fired three shots and made the engineer cut the mail and express cars off and pull ahead about two miles. They then stated to Engineer Harper that they did not desire to harm anyone, and for him to inform the messenger of that fact, and there would be no trouble. The messenger concluded this was the proper thing to do, and opened up, giving them his gun, and handed them the money packages which they placed in sacks, and without offering to molest the mail, disappeared, taking a southerly direction. As soon as the engine pulled away from the train, McLellan and Cerreno went back to Steins Pass to report. I started towards the engine with my lamp, and had proceeded about a half a mile when I met the engine coming back.

Poetry Corner

OL' RED

By Mark Finley

When I was just around four I got my first horse.
His mane was red, so I named him Red of course.
It took me a while to learn how to ride
And how to mount up on his left side.
But it wasn't long till I had things down pat
And if you found Ol' Red, you'd know where I was at.

Yes it's true, a horse is a cowboy's best friend
And Ol' Red and I made it through thick and thin.
We rode the mountains high and valleys down below.
Ol' Red would take me anywhere I wanted to go.

Then one day he stumbled and we fell down a slope
And when I got up, I saw his leg was broke.
My eyes filled with tears as I knew this was the end.
I pulled my pistol and was about to shoot my friend.
But I holstered my gun and prayed to God instead
Sayin' please God, find some way to save Ol' Red.

My prayer was answered as up rode my dad.
He looked at Ol' Red and said, "I don't think it's that bad".
Now a rancher has to be about half vet
Cause animals will git hurt, that's a sure bet.
Dad fixed Red's leg with splints, tape and a little glue,
Then said, "Give him a little time and he'll be good as new."

Finally the time came to remove the splint.
He was all fixed up, so off we went.
We were back to chasin' cows and ropin' steers
And I rode Ol' Red for about four more years.

Then Dad got me a new horse
So I let Ol' Red retire, of course.
But now and then I miss Ol' Red real bad
Cause he was the only STICK HORSE I ever had.



The Legend of Lover's Leap

On beautiful Lookout Mountain
In the ever so long ago,
Two Indian lovers, loved and lost
So the Cherokee legends go.

He was the bold, brave Sauttee –
She – “Princess Evening Star,”
Daughter to a Cherokee chief –
He – of a tribe from afar.

They always must meet in secret
Must embrace in secluded bower
Against all odds he must court her –
Must chance every perilous hour.

The Princess eloped with her lover –
No shelter found they for their hearts.
For both were considered banished
Their people had set them apart.



Vengeance was swift by her father –
Proud Chief of the Cherokees –
He tracked them down to their bower
Where Sauttee was captured with ease.

Penalty – Death! – was the verdict
From the Mountain's great height
he must fall.

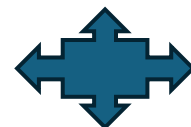
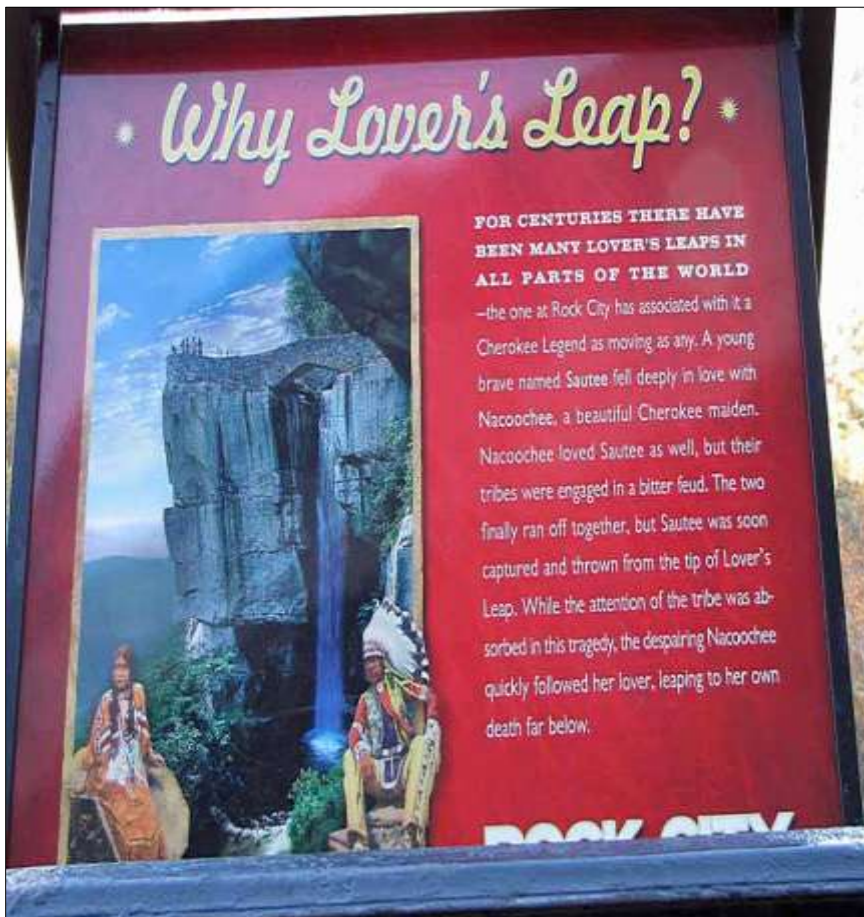
And Nacoochee the sorrowing maiden,
Must witness the death of her “all”.

Into the abyss they hurled him
His battle cries echoing rise –
All edged to the brink of the chasm
While fury and rage in their eyes.

Unnoticed by all as they watched there
Nacoochee from a sheltering tree
Leaped after his hurling body –
“My love Sauttee, I go with thee!”

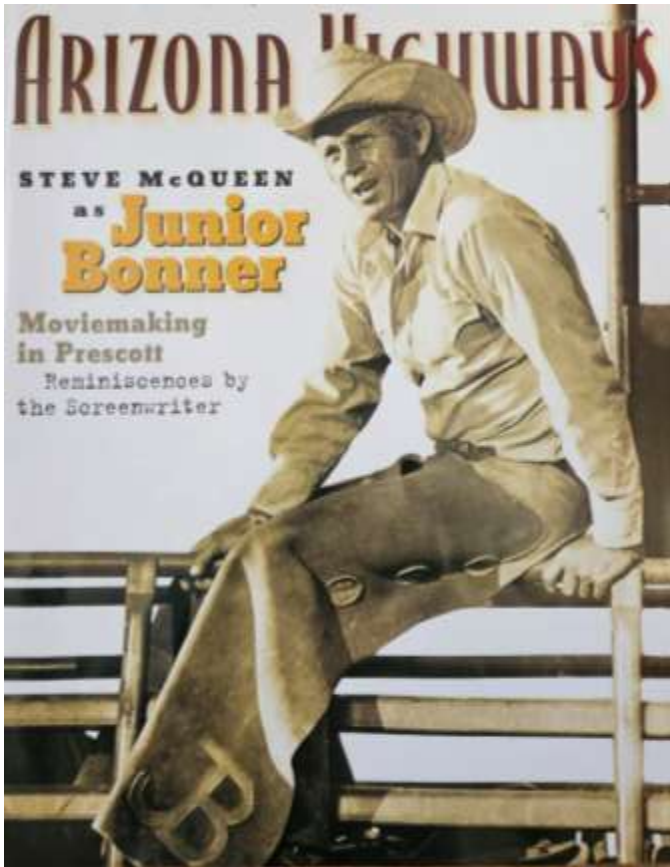
Now a solemn quiet descended
On this peaceful valley so green
And side by side they lie there
Sauttee and his lovely young dream.

On beautiful Lookout Mountain
In the ever so long ago.
Two Indian lovers, loved and lost
So the Cherokee legends go.





Hollywood Trivia Lindsey Zimmerman



In July, 1971, the film company of *Junior Bonner*, including Steve McQueen, Robert Preston, Ida Lupino, Ben Johnson, Mary Murphy, Joe Don Baker, William McKinney & Barbara Leigh, had arrived in Prescott at rodeo time along with Sam Peckinpah (*The Wild Bunch*) to shoot the film for the next seven weeks.

Junior Bonner is a fictional over-the-hill rodeo rider returning to his hometown of Prescott. He's determined to ride Sunshine, a bull that threw him a week earlier. Preston is Junior's father, who lives with estranged wife Ida Lupino, who sells antiques & rents rooms. Baker is his little brother, Curley,



who sells Prescott & trailer parks to retirees & thinks Junior should quit the rodeo to join him. "I'm working on my first million, Junior, while you're still working on eight seconds." Will Rogers once said, "Buy land, they ain't makin' it no more." Apparently developers in Prescott agreed, it's really grown since then.

Filming began June 30th with the Frontier Day Parade, in which all the main characters play a role. Later, cameras moved to the rodeo grounds where at least five stuntmen wearing blond wigs rode saddle broncs, wrestled steers and rode black bulls representing Sunshine. One rider was hung up on a bull. Cameras captured this and it became the opening of the film. Peckinpah, impatient with the time it was taking cowboys to run the chutes, directed some profanity their way. Shortly, and inexplicably, a bull exploded out of a chute, charged the length of the arena, crashed into the fence and destroyed a very expensive Panavision camera while its crew scrambled to safety. While Peckinpah glared at the chute cowboys, Frank Kelly, one of the stunt doubles remarked, "You don't cuss a cowboy."

While at the rehearsal table, McQueen looked at Ben Johnson & said he'd seen a rough cut of *The Last Picture Show* & predicted he'd win an Academy Award. He did.

Peckinpah has "Ace", Junior's dad, slap the hat from his head when he admits he's broke. The scene showed McQueen as close to crying as he ever did in film. In real life, Steve McQueen did not know his own father.

Just before filming ended, a disease threat quarantined all horses in Yavapai County. They had yet to film some driving scenes with Junior trailering his horse. The fiberglass horse over the Pioneer Store, painted the right color, made a fine stand-in inside the trailer!

Preston sat at the bar of the Palace and asked, "If this world is all about winning, what's for the losers?" McQueen looked around, and Ben Johnson smiled – he had the line. "Somebody's got to hold the horses."



Deep Thoughts on History

Doug Hocking

I call it the Buntline Effect, but its roots go a little deeper in time to the Leatherstocking tales of James Fenimore Cooper. Of Edward Judson, whose pseudonym was Ned Buntline, biographer Bricklin wrote:

Judson's published works during the first half of his life were at least partially inspired by the Leatherstocking Tales of James Fenimore Cooper, which emphasized tensions between the wild frontier and encroaching civilization. After the Civil War, the writer's short stories and novels emphasized conquest and subordination of nature and Native Americans that reflected the ideas of Manifest Destiny. Judson's literature demonstrated the necessity of an unwritten code of honor in the lawless Wild West . . . how much his writing would whet the country's appetite for stories from the great expanse of frontier loosely referred to as the American West. The popularity of his pulp fiction spurred an estimated eleven million individual titles of "dime novels," or "yellow-backs," as they were sometimes derisively called. . . the line between Edward Z. C. Judson and Ned Buntline was always blurred.ⁱ

Judson, or as he's more commonly known, Buntline, created Wild Bill and Buffalo Bill and made the latter a showman. In *Tombstone*, he invented Wyatt Earp's Buntline Special. He was a master of legend.

At the 2026 Wild West History Convention, renowned scholar Gary Olhs, spoke on *Western Film Mythology*. He distinguished between Historical Fact based on evidence, Fiction based on individual imagination, Folklore made up of traditional tales embellished over time and Myth which is foundational stories involving the mystical. Buntline dealt in Legend as well as Fiction.

Some of his stories were simply made up. In others he embellished on the lives of real people like Wild Bill Hickock, Buffalo Bill and Wyatt Earp.

The lives of Daniel Boone, Davy Crocket, John C. Fremont and Kit Carson received similar embellishment. By 1880, if a person wanted to publish his memoir or autobiography, it had to be embellished with elements of the Wild West in order to sell. Unfortunately, many of these works have been interpreted as factual history while works of history go accused of being lies or legends. Stuart Lake's *Wyatt Earp Frontier Marshal* was well researched. It is part legend but also contains factual history.

Gary Olhs quoted from a number of movies. In *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* we were told "When the legend becomes fact. Print the legend." This seems to refer to legend becoming myth and taking on meaning about how our society is organized. James Stewart didn't shoot Liberty Valance; Duke Wayne did. The Duke was a rough and tough rancher of the Wild West while Stewart, a lawyer, represented the acceptance of civilized law and order backed by courage.

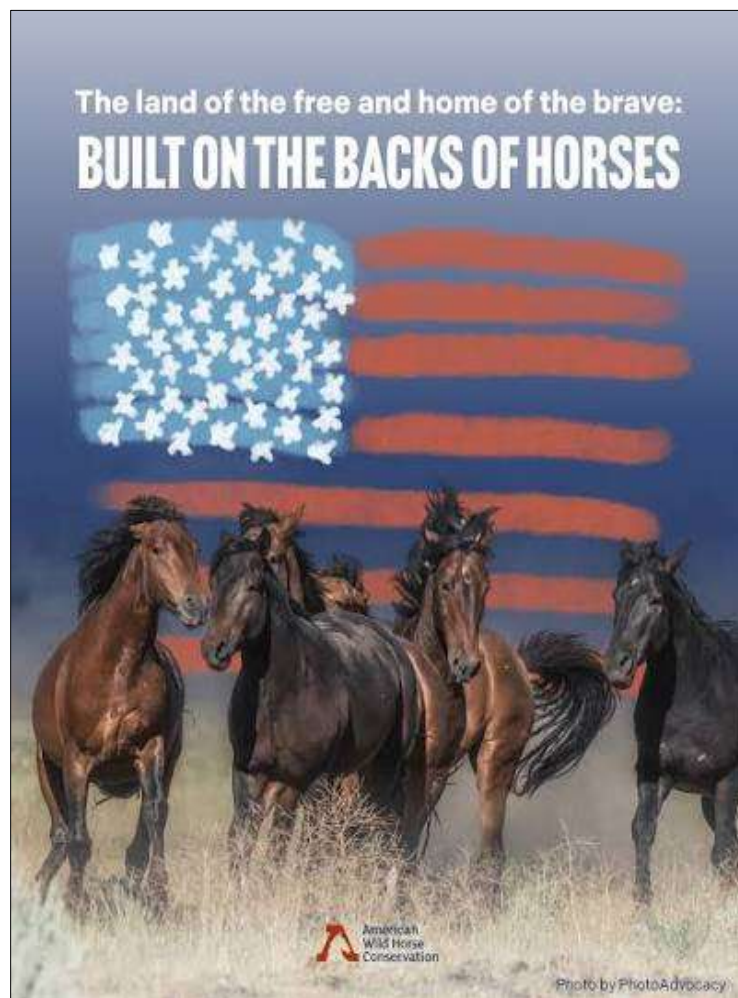
Many of our western movies are pure fiction. Others, a better class perhaps, build on the legends of past heroes. The very best and most memorable movies turn legend to myth. *Tombstone* was one such that took us beyond the gunfight to give meaning to what happened. *My Name is Nobody* with Henry Fonda and the American movie star who never was [American], Italian spaghetti western star, Terance Hill, was pure fiction providing its own warped version of The Legend. *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* furthered the American version of the legend and was very enjoyable. It lived up to the theme of *Sunset*, with Bruce Willis and James Garner. This was summarized as "It's all true. . . Give or take a lie or two." That is the very definition of Legend. Films like *The Searchers*, *The Outlaw Jose Wales*, *Hombre*, and *Rio Grande* took things a step further and gave the story meaning.

Despite being rooted firmly, we hope, in factual evidence, historians attempt to find meaning in history basing our founding myths on firm footing. Unfortunately, many, seduced by works influenced by Buntline, succumb to including elements of legend ending there or going on to create myth based in the legendary and mystical. On the other hand, real history can legitimately lead to many versions of the founding myth.

Human motivation and response to cultural imperatives is varied. Pull on different threads of motivation or imperative and new aspects of the founding myth are highlighted. While history is still real and fact based, modern circumstance leads us to see that something like this happened in the past. As circumstance evolve new aspects of the past emerge into relevance.

Is it right to call the lessons historians derive from facts, rather than legends, myth? It feels wrong, but the lessons historians teach fill the same role that myth did in earlier times. Hopefully, historians have weeded out the legendary and mystical.

¹ Bricklin, Julia. *The Notorious Life of Ned Buntline: A Tale of Murder, Betrayal and the Creation of Buffalo Bill*. Guilford: Twodot Press, 2020, p xxiv.



Out & About Doug Hocking

On July 14, at the **Chiricahua Regional Museum**, 127 E. Maley St., Willcox, Ranch Hands Bill Cavaliere who is also president of the Cochise County Historical Society and Kathy Klump who is also the head of the Chiricahua Regional Museum completed the formal transfer of the General “Sandy” Vandenberg artifact collection to the museum.

The transfer included rehangng charts and moving exhibits to make room for three new cases. There is also an upgrade to the security systems at the museum. Ranch Hands Craig McEwan, Debbie & Doug Hocking chipped in for a new, super hi-tech



“security drop-bar” while the old one will become a now treasured artifact of the Museum.



On July 14, the Cochise County Historical Society finalized preparations for the Annual Historical Essay Contest for High School and Jr. High School students.



HISTORICAL ESSAY CONTEST 2027
For Original Essays of
Cochise County History
500 to 2000 Words
Open to Middle School and
High School Students

Essays Submitted by December 18, 2026
Awards Announced April 14, 2027

For Additional Information Contact
Bill Cavaliere at (520) 558-2580 billcavaliere@hotmail.com
or
Doug Hocking at (520) 378-1833, dhocking@centurylink.net

*Cash Prizes
for
Students and their Schools*



On July 14, the Corral published *The Border Vidette* for Summer 2026. If you did not receive your copy via email, let us know. It is also available at the Corral’s website at: <https://cochisecountycorral.org/the-border-vidette>. Now we start collecting articles for the next edition. Please contribute.

On July 15, Doug & Debbie Hocking headed out to Albuquerque, NM, to the annual convention of the **Wild West History Association** where they’ll meet Jean and Chuck Smith who are on the board of the association with other friends and members of the Corral. Also, there were Gary Seizs, Bob Block, Brad & Wendi Courtney.



Doug announced the 2027 Tombstone Festival of Western Books to the assembled Wild West History Association, many of whom are authors.



And Doug got to hold mountain man
James Beckwourth's rifle.



Happy Jean!
Our Recorder of Marks & Brands

On July 21, Ranch Hand Carol Markstrom who often plays for us at Christmas had two entries in the Top 15 Western Songs, while friend of Corral Kerry Grombacher who has also played for us topped the list.



Top 15 Western Songs

- 1 Kerry Grombacher – Cowboy Heart
- 2 Aspen Black – Generations Riding Through His Veins
- 3 Doug Figgs – Cowgirl From Illinois
- 4 Larry Cann – Cowboy's Hands
- 5 RW Hampton – Who
- 6 Patty Clayton – So Many Cowboys
- 7 Aspen Black – E-Town Road
- 8 Jon Chandler – The Western Road
- 9 Carol Markstrom – Juniper and Sage
- 10 Birdie Nichols – Burnin' Daylight
- 11 The Timberline Cowboys – Whispers on the Wind
- 12 Randy Palmer – Cowboy
- 13 The Timberline Cowboys – Ghosts of the Gallows
- 14 Shaza Leigh – Cowgirls Heart
- 15 Carol Markstrom – Trickster Wind

On July 25, the Corral marched in the **National Day of the Cowboy Parade** in Tombstone.



July 22nd, The Arizona Primary took place. Trail Hands Brenda Davis, Pam Bouilly & Lindsey Zimmerman served in various towns of Cochise County as volunteer Poll Observers.



Fellers in town over the National Day of the Cowboy Weekend. Buck was at Vintage Cowgirls.

Ric & Christine
Simmons,
Paul Fry,
Debbie & Doug
Hocking,
Carol Markstrom &
Cowboy Poet
KC LaCrouse,
& Bob Spahle
marched for the
Corral.



On July 28, Ranch Hand Bill Cavaliere spoke at the Tucson Corral of the Westerners on *The Violent Past of New Mexico's Boot Heel*.

Places to Visit

Rio Rico History Museum

Open Thursday, Friday & Saturday

11:00am to 4:00pm

Free Admission.

Address: 1060 Yavapai Dr, Suite 7, Rio Rico, AZ

Phone: (520) 281-8293

Rio Rico's History Museum had its Grand Opening July 18th. **Coronado's Medieval Cannon to Highlight Rio Rico History Museum's July Exhibition**

Tucson Archeologist Rewrites AZ History

On Saturday July 18, 2026, the Rio Rico Historical Society will introduce a rare artifact copy at the Rio Rico History Museum. Left behind by the 1539-42 Francisco Vasquez de Coronado expedition was a 42-inch bronze cannon unearthed in east Rio Rico by Tucson archeologist **Deni Seymour, PhD**. On display will be a steel replica of the 40-lb weapon. Its discovery establishes the location of the long-lost settlement of Suyu and rewrites the recorded prehistory of the Southwest. It is believed to be the oldest armament in the United States. Dr. Seymour will be present to tell the story of her decades-long quest and the stunning archeological significance of her find.

For background, check out the free, one-hour 2024 PBS program: www.pbs.org/show/coronado-the-new-evidence



Photo caption: Shortly after her discovery in 2020 and declaring it to be one of several cannons Francisco Coronado brought with him on his expedition, Dr. Seymour displays her find to colleagues.



The museum has rotating exhibits and permanent ones. They are also going to host a fall Bus Trip. Space is limited, so I have included the flyer in the

Coming Events section so you have plenty of time to sign up. Looks like a pretty good ride!

The Rio Rico Historical Society

We make history visible and accessible.
Come visit our Museum.

Prized for its natural beauty and unique setting like none other, Rio Rico is rich in history as we have learned from the remarkable natives, settlers, farmers, ranchers and miners that previously inhabited the area.



Spanish for “Rich River”, Rio Rico, along the Santa Cruz River valley, with Mt. San Cayetano towering above in Southern Arizona.

“In 1775, Captain Juan Bautista de Anza stopped at the Calabasas Mission with Father Pedro Font who said Mass before continuing his expedition to San Francisco.”
— Dwight Thibodeaux

The purpose of the Rio Rico Historical Society is to identify and locate artifacts and historical information, protect, preserve, foster, publicize, promote, and educate the public about the history, historical documents, and artifacts of the Rio Rico area. Rio Rico, Arizona, has a rich history that spans over 320 years. The area was originally inhabited by O'odham groups who have a long-standing connection to the land.



Calabasas Mission 1937
Frederick D. Nichols
Courtesy of Library of Congress

It was later transformed by Spanish settlers in the late 1600's, making significant changes in the area's demographics and land use.

Rio Rico is celebrated for its historical importance, with various events and programs aimed at preserving and showcasing its heritage. The community's history is highlighted by its natural landscapes and the stories of its early inhabitants and settlers.

1969: Rio Rico was officially established as a community, leading to further development and recognition of its historical roots. Today it stands as a testament to the diverse history of the region, blending its indigenous roots with the influences of Spanish colonization and modern development.

ODD BITS

Lindsey Zimmerman



Gene Autry's Cowboy Code of Honor

- ★ The cowboy must never shoot first, hit a smaller man or take unfair advantage.
- ★ He must never go back on his word or a trust confided in him.
- ★ He must always tell the truth.
- ★ He must be gentle with children, the elderly and animals.
- ★ He must not advocate or possess racially or religiously intolerant ideas.
- ★ He must help people in distress.
- ★ He must be a good worker.
- ★ He must keep himself clean in thought, speech, action and personal habits.
- ★ He must respect women, parents and his nation's laws.
- ★ The cowboy is a patriot.



The **White Steed of the Prairies**, the **White Mustang**, and the **Ghost Horse of the Plains** were, in fact, several extraordinary white mustang stallions with like spirit. J Frank Dobie tells of the **Pacing White Stallion of Travis County**, Texas, one of that breed. Like the others, he had a passion to live free: when caught and staked with grass and water within reach, he declined both and stood for 10 days until he lay down and died.

Our Corral's Selected Font for our *Freemont Street Mail & Border Vidette*:

Times Roman, designed by Stanley Morison specifically for The Times of London. The typeface was introduced in the newspaper in 1932. Times Roman had its greatest success in the U.S. as a book and commercial typeface, rather than one used in newspapers.

Buffalo Soldier Showin' His Stuff By Frederick Remington



Coming Events - Telegraphers Code



Sources:

TTR: <https://tombstoneterritoryrendezvous.com>
<https://tombstoneterritoryrendezvous.com/annual-events>
<https://www.empireranchfoundation.org/ranch-events/calendar/>
<https://saintdavidheritage.org/events/>
<https://tombstoneweb.com/coming-events/>
<https://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/>
<http://sonoitafairgrounds.com/labor-day/>
<https://southerntrails.thetaleofthetrail.org/>
<https://visitwillcox.az.gov/local-events>
<https://www.mescalmovieset.com/upcoming-events>
<https://www.tubacpresidio.org/events>
<https://tucsonpresidio.com/calendars/borderlandchronicles.com>
<https://www.theborderchronicle.com>
<https://borderlandchronicles.blogspot.com>
<https://home.army.mil/huachuca/>
<https://www.arizonan.com> > federal-lands > fort-huachuca



Website and how to get there:

<https://cochisecountycorral.org/>
The Fremont Street Mail (monthly)
<https://cochisecountycorral.org/fremontstreet-mail>
The Border Vidette (quarterly)
<https://cochisecountycorral.org/the-bordervidette>
Scrapbook
<https://cochisecountycorral.org/scrapbook>
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/CochiseCountyCorral>

August 15-16, Santa Fe Indian Market

August 15-17, Prescott Doc Hollidaze,
Prescott Corral

August 22 - 150th Anniversary Celebration,
Empire Ranch

September 5-6, Showdown in Tombstone

September 5-7, Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo

September 18, Terror on the Santa Fe Trail, the
Jicarilla Apache, Doug Hocking, Historical Society
of New Mexico, Camarron, NM

October 1-4, Rex Allen Days, Willcox

October 1-4, Art in the Park, Sierra Vista

October 10-11, Patagonia Fall Fest, Patagonia

October 16-18, Helldorado, Tombstone

October 16-18, Unbelievable Borderlands
Festival, Camp Naco, Naco AZ

October 21-24, Tombstone Territorial
Rendezvous, Tombstone

October 24, TTR – A Modern-Day Law
Enforcement View of the OK Corral Gunfight,
Bill Cavaliere

November 7, Cowboy Festival Saturday, Empire
Ranch

December 6, Cochise County Historical Society
Annual Banquet, Gadsden Hotel, Douglas

December 12th Christmas at the Empire Ranch

2027

March 11, Guest Author Event, Sierra Vista
Library

March 12, Tombstone Festival of Western Books

March 13-14, Tucson Festival of Books

CORRAL MERCHANDISE



Free Docent-Led Tours of the Empire Ranch Headquarters are the second & fourth Saturday of every month, 11 am to noon. Reservations are required by 5 pm the day before the tour. [Click here](#) to make a reservation. Free. Meet at the Visitor Contact Station.

The ranch house is open for self-guided tours every day from dawn to dusk.

NOTE: The Empire Ranch will not have a **National Day of the Cowboy** event in 2026, but it will be back on July 24, 2027.

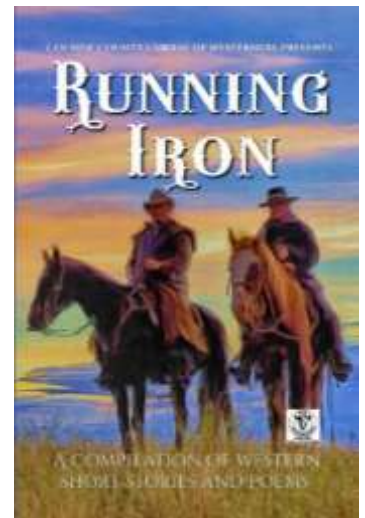
Our **outdoor movie showings** at the Empire Ranch are on hold indefinitely. The Loft's Solar Cinema equipment is in need of repair and funding is scarce for this free program. We hope to resume movies at the ranch in 2027.

August 22, 2026 we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Empire Ranch. Docent tours will not be offered. Instead, docents will provide repeating 10-minute presentations on aspects of Empire Ranch history at 10:00, 10:20, 10:40, 11:00, 11:20. No reservations required.

Map of Tombstone Claims & Surrounding Communities \$5



Corral Books \$16 (\$10 for the authors)



Buffalo Bill Festival of Books Mug \$12



Commerative Mug \$12





Showdown in Tombstone 2026

September 5, 6 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Downtown Tombstone – Allen Street

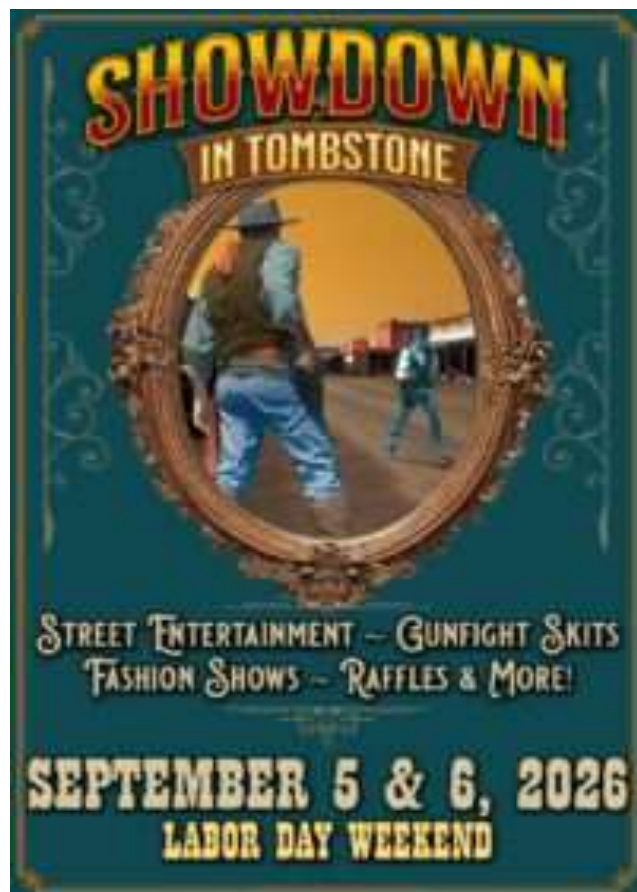
Join us for the Annual Showdown in Tombstone!

Activities will include Free street entertainment daily, 1880s Fashion Shows, Gunfight Skits, Raffles, and more!

If you are not a Gunslinger or Saloon Lady, come down and see the world's best re-enactors perform to bring the Old West to life.

While you are enjoying the festivities you can be hung or have someone hung by the Tombstone Vigilantes at the Hanging scaffold.

For more info call Steve at (520) 559-1445.



Live to Ride

October 2 @ 12:00 pm - October 4 @ 5:00 pm

Join us as we take over the town with motorcycle parking on each side road off Allen Street. Each road will be a different class of bike from Vintage and Chopper to Performance and Vicla.. we'll have a spot for you. With your purchase of the ticket, you'll receive The Key to the City, the keys will give you discounts throughout the town, and get you into the main event with live music. vendors, food, and The Ives Brother Wall of Death.

Sponsored by Live to Ride Tombstone

Tombstone Helldorado Days 2025

October 16 @ 10:00 am - October 18 @ 4:00 pm

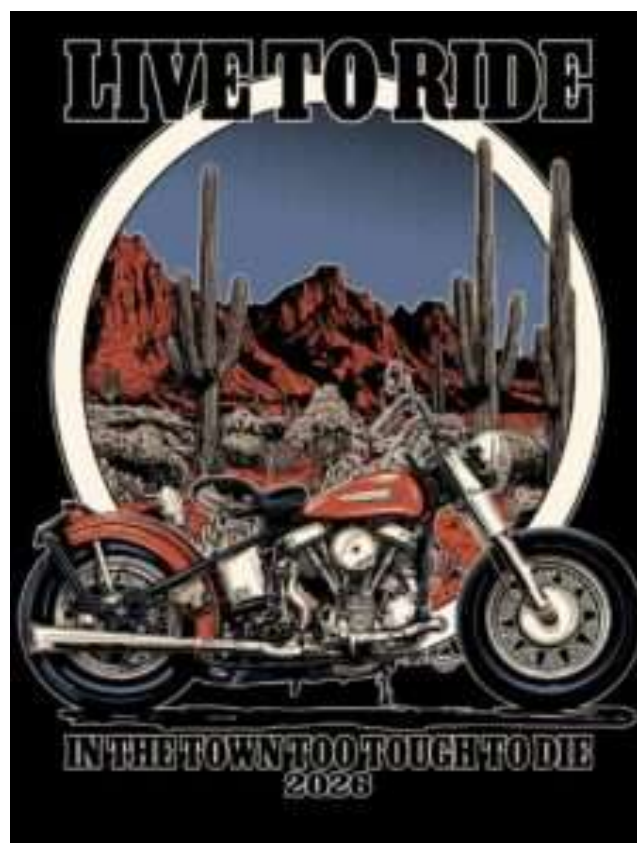
Downtown Tombstone – Allen Street

Bull Riding in Tombstone

October 17 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Shoot-Out Arena

365 South 3rd Street





Beyond the Jaguar

SDRAA Virtual Meeting

Sunday, August 9, 2026, 4:00 pm Pacific

[Click Here to Register](#)

**Recent "Discoveries" in the Jornada Region,
New Mexico and West Texas
A Presentation by Marglyph Berrie**

The unique rock imagery of the Jornada Mogollon has fascinated researchers since early in the 19th century. In 2016 over three hundred rock art groupies visited the region for the ARARA symposium in Las Cruces and participated in the thirty-eight field trips. Many rock art enthusiasts have visited the well-known sites, Three Rivers and Hueco Tanks. Fortunately, new "rediscoveries" continue to happen! Watch the magic of DStretch reveal new imagery in previously documented sites, see what insights were found in old slide collections found gathering dust on shelves, take a virtual trip to seldom seen rock art at Jornada sites on private property, and learn about some of the work being done by archaeologists and avocationalists in the region.

Margaret (Marglyph) Berrie has researched, recorded, and photographed rock art sites in the west and in other countries since 1986, concentrating her efforts on documenting rock imagery in southern New Mexico and west Texas and using her graphic skills to illustrate her own as well as other researchers' publications and presentations. In 2021 she received a grant from the New Mexico Site Steward program for her free educational Three Rivers Coloring Book. Margaret received ARARA's Castleton Award in 2017, the Archaeological Society of New Mexico's Brice Award in 2018, Associate of the Year 2021 for the Jornada Research Institute, and the ARARA Wellmann Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2023.

Free Registration Required



The Corral meets the third Tuesday each month at 7 PM online via Zoom for a one-hour history presentation. If you would like to visit and need the Zoom login information, please use the [contact form](#) to request it.

Topics include local, Texas, and Western history.

Speakers are members, local historians, and university professors.

Visitors are welcome.

Fort Worth Westerners Corral was founded in 1965 and is the oldest of the eight active Corrals in Texas. Like the Westerners International organization, membership is open to anyone interested in Western history.

**Aug 18, 2026: Matthew Babcock,
"Apache Adaption to Hispanic Culture"**

In response to drought and military pressure, after 1786 thousands of Ndé, or Apaches, settled near Spanish presidios in a system of reservation-like *establecimientos*, or settlements, stretching from Laredo to Tucson. Although a small number of Ndé and Spaniards reached an enduring accommodation, the majority of Ndé who settled on Spanish reservations did so only to fulfill temporary needs. Demonstrating minimal signs of acculturation and dependence, they circumvented the overambitious incorporation efforts of Spanish and Mexican officials through a variety of adaptive and resistive strategies, including gambling away their rations and gifts, forging interband and intertribal alliances, and continuing to hunt, gather, and raid. As a result of these efforts, Apaches de paz worked together with independent Ndé groups to reassert control of their homeland after the collapse of the *establecimientos* in 1832 and would eventually draw on this prior experience to negotiate conquest more shrewdly on U.S. reservations.



Meet Matthew Babcock, Ph.D.

Matthew Babcock is an Associate Professor of History at UNT Dallas and earned his Ph.D. at Southern Methodist University, his M.A. at the University of New Mexico, and his B.A. at Dartmouth College. His research focuses

on the history of North American borderlands, Native Americans, and the colonial Southwest. He is the author of *Apache Adaptation to Hispanic Rule* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), and he is currently working on a book project, "Frontiers of War and Peace: Antonio Cordero and Hispanic-Indigenous Relations in the Southwest."



2026 Arizona History Mini Convention

Sept 25 and 26, 2026 at the Arizona Historical Society's Arizona History Museum located at 949 E. 2nd Street, Tucson, Arizona.

Conference Registration (via EventBrite)

Registration is \$25 (plus fees) per person (free for students and K-12 teachers)

Register Now

Parking is available at the Arizona Historical Society's section of the Main Gate Garage, Euclid Ave. and 2nd St., near the Marriott Hotel. Please enter the garage from 2nd St and head north to the section labeled "Arizona Historical Society," and bring your ticket to the museum for validation.

ArizonaHistoryConvention-Program (pdf)

Download

September 15, 2026: Tom Ashmore, "Horsehead Crossing Celebration"

Hear more about the annual event at the historic Horsehead Crossing on the Pecos River.

Meet Tom Ashmore

Tom spent 22 years in the Air Force as a special intelligence analyst. After retiring from active duty, he taught special intelligence skills for another five years worldwide and then 15 years at the Air Force Intelligence School at Goodfellow AFB, Texas. He completed a book in 2019, updated in 2024, on his Butterfield Trail investigations, entitled *The Butterfield Trail through the Concho Valley and West Texas*. He completed a second book in 2025 on the 3-year study on Camp Meyers Spring, Texas. He is currently the president of the West Texas Archeological Society and a board member of the Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies.



**NEW MEXICO CHAPTER
BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND MAIL
NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION**

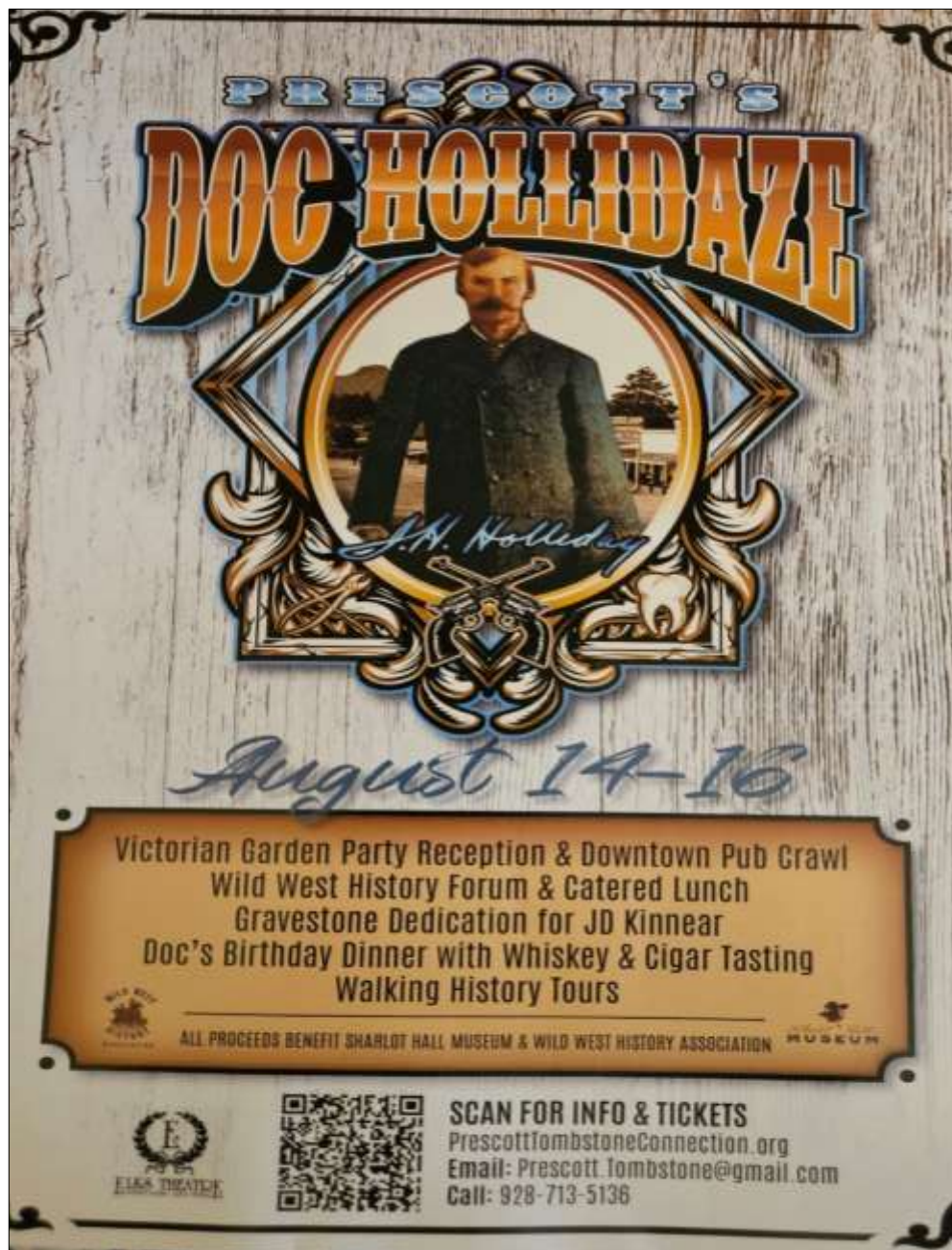
**Wednesday, August 12
6 PM (New Mexico), 5 PM (Arizona)
Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83017215773>**

Doug & Debbie will be connecting from Santa Fe, NM. They'll be at the Santa Fe Indian Market in the El Dorado Hotel starting Thursday, at 1 PM



**Animas [Lordsburg] Playa
Looking down the trail to Stein's Peak**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83017215773>



Help Arizona Celebrate Doc's Birthday in Prescott this August!

John Henry Holliday was born August 14, 1851, was born in Georgia, and raised as a southern gentleman. He was considered a dental prodigy, graduating from the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery, and known for his a gentle touch. His career was cut short after contracting tuberculosis at 20, probably from his mother, who died of it. He then became a constant traveller trying to find a location that would help him with his condition.

Classically schooled, he was fluent in both Greek & Latin. He continued to practice dentistry as long as he was able, but then turned to gambling to make a living, as he was highly intelligent with a quick wit, strategic mind and of course, his southern charm, making him a formidable opponent at the poker table. He wasn't really an infamous gunslinger or Wyatt Earp's ever-present sidekick and fast friend. He's only known to have killed less than a handful of men. He *was* known to have unerring gun skills, and *did* save Wyatt's life in Dodge City, but prior to the OK Corral they'd only been acquainted for 4 years, mostly in passing, while each was moving around the West. After the famous gunfight and the vengence mopping-up, they went their separate ways, Doc still trying to find a climate better suited for his declining health. His final days were at Glenwood Springs, Colorado where his health deteriorated rapidly. The town's citizens cared for him and supported him financially. He reportedly asked for whiskey in his last

moments, defiant to the end. And against popular belief, Wyatt did not visit his bedside before his passing. The then famous Doc Holliday died November 8, 1887 at the age of only 36. While not *really* a famous "gunfighter", his contributions during perilous times to those in need proved his southern upbringing by being a loyal, skilled and courageous person to have on your side when the chips were down.

**Don't forget the date - August 14th
Hoist one for The Doc, wherever you are!**



104th ANNUAL SANTA FE INDIAN MARKET

Presented By:

Southwestern Association for Indian Arts

Dates: August 15 - August 16, 2026

Time: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Price: Free

Venue: Santa Fe Plaza

Recurrence: Recurring daily

info@swaia.org (505) 983-5220

Now in its 104th year, the Santa Fe Indian Market (SFIM) is the largest and most prestigious Native art market in the world. Each August, more than 1,000 Native artists from over 200 Tribal Nations transform the streets of Santa Fe into a vibrant celebration of creativity, community, and culture.



Visitors can explore original works in a wide range of mediums—jewelry, pottery, textiles, painting, sculpture, and more—while meeting the artists who make them. SFIM also features live performances, family programming, food vendors, and cultural demonstrations.

The art market is free and open to the public.



SIERRA VISTA

Join us Thursdays in July and August in Veterans Memorial Park at the Centennial Pavilion for a musical treat as we present our Summer Concert Series. Bring a chair or blanket, relax under the open sky, and enjoy a delightful evening filled with live music. All concerts are free and open to the public.

8/13/2026 6:30 – 7:30 The Cover Ups

The Cover Ups cover rock n' roll, classic, party, and pop hits from the 1970's to 2000. With a variety of favorite songs spanning multiple decades, it's sure to be a show all ages will enjoy.

For more information, call Parmalee Mitchell at (520) 439-2300

San Pedro Bird Walk - FREE

Date: 08/12/2026 6:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Location: San Pedro House

7 miles east on Hwy 90, south side of the hwy

The San Pedro River is considered one of the largest and most critical avian migratory corridors remaining in the western United States. The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area provides habitat for over 100 species of breeding birds, and provides water, food, and shelter for another 250 species of migratory and wintering birds. Novice and experienced bird watchers attend our bird walks to view the diverse avian community of the area. We usually observe 30-60 species on these popular walks, which last approximately three hrs. Bring water, hat, and binoculars. These walks can be moderately difficult on uneven terrain.

More info: (520) 508-4445 or

fspr@sanpedroriver.org

Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo

Sonoita Fairgrounds
3142 S. Hwy 83
Sonoita AZ

GCPRA Sanctioned Event

Sept 5-7, 2026

Gates Open - 10am
Jr. Rodeo - Noon
Main Perf - 2pm

Steak Fry
Live Music
Sat & Sun

For more info: www.sonoitafairgrounds.com | Brought to you by: Hudbay, The Steak Out, South32, SSVEC

Best Little Rodeo In Arizona

111th Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo

September 5 – 7, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

\$5 – \$17.00 Over 700 entries w/cash & buckles awarded to the top contestants of the Southwest.

Merchandise and Concessions on site
Steak Fry & DANCE Saturday & Sunday
Steak Fry 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm



Amerind Museum
<https://www.amerind.org>

Click on the above link to check out
The September online events!

COCHISE COUNTY CORRAL OF THE WESTERNERS
October 1, 7PM at Schieffelin Hall **FREE**

Presenter:
Elizabeth Wrozek

*Unearthing the Stories
of Fry Pioneer
Cemetery*




What were the legacies of the Yaqui and Mexican pioneers who helped build Sierra Vista? What was life like in early Sierra Vista? Walk in the footsteps of those who migrated to Sierra Vista in the early 1900's during this fascinating presentation by Sierra Vista Historical Society President Elizabeth Wrozek.

See You at Schieffelin Hall
4th and Fremont in Tombstone

Regular meetings at 7 PM on the first Thursday of each month
Join a Rodeo and Corral winner of Heads Up Award
for Best Corral 2013, 2014 & 2021

Pre-meeting dinner, 5:30 PM at the Longhorn Restaurant, 5th & Allen



- ★ Enjoy learning about Western Frontier History in a fun, informal environment
- ★ Enjoy Monthly meetings with presentations of Cowboy Poetry, Short History and Western History
- ★ Exciting Trail Ride (field trip) to visit places important in our Western history
- ★ Read the interesting Border Plate and the Fremont Street Map!

For more information www.CochiseCountyCorral.org
Or contact Dong Hocking at 520 378-1833 or ldk2000@CochiseCountyCorral.org

The Cochise County Corral of The Westerners is a 501(c)3 organization. © 2023 CCCW.

Keep track of what's happening at
Camp Naco!



<https://www.campnacoaz.org/>
cesilia@campnacoaz.org



Rio Rico Historical Society

We make history visible and accessible. Come & Visit our Museum

2026 Fall Bus Tour in Rio Rico, Patagonia & Sonoita

Saturday October 24, 2026, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Hosted by Rio Rico Historical Society

ALL NEW ITINERARY

Tour starts at **Rio Rico History Museum**, 1149 W. Frontage Rd. 8:15am, open for Registration. We plan to get on the bus at 9:30am at the RRHM and return around 4:30pm.



Rio Rico History Museum



Patagonia Museum



Wild Horse Restaurant



Bowman-Stradling History Center



Empire Ranch

- Guided Tour of the **Rio Rico History Museum**, 8:30am-9:30am
- Short stops at **two RRHS Historic Monuments**
- **Patagonia Museum** – Guided Tour of Museum, 10:30am-11:30am
- Lunch in Patagonia at **Wild Horse Restaurant**, 11:30am-1:00pm (Lunch buffet included in tour price, \$5 suggested cash gratuity per person paid at restaurant)
- **Bowman-Stradling History Center** in Sonoita – Guided Tour 1:15pm-1:45pm
- **Empire Ranch** in Sonoita – Guided Tour (\$5 donation included) 2:00pm-3:30pm

Tour cost: Members \$69, Non-Members \$89. Prepaid Reservations Required.

Limited Space on the Bus. Reserve your spot online or mail checks to:

Rio Rico Historical Society, PO Box 4201, Rio Rico, AZ 85648.

Online <https://www.rioricohistoricalsociety.org/upcoming-events/2026FallBusTour>

Rio Rico Historical Society is a **501(C) 3 Non-Profit Organization** in Santa Cruz County, AZ

Email: info@rioricohistoricalsociety.org, Website: rioricohistoricalsociety.org

Rio Rico History Museum: **1149 W. Frontage Rd. Rio Rico, AZ 85648** Phone: **520.394.7745**

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Doug Hocking

Following up on the 1888 Train Robbery account in this edition's Epitaph, here is an account of the posse pursuing the outlaws. This is an interview with Len Harris, railroad detective, who had started out with the posse.

"Train Thieves," *Daily Herald*, 26 March 1888.

The Meade Expedition

Terrible Hardships Endured - Interesting Frontier Reminiscences

While on the look out for something of interest to readers of the HERALD, a reporter yesterday espied Len. Harris, the celebrated railroad detective, standing outside the waiting room and knowing that he had just returned from the hunt for the Arizona train robbers, the scribe approached and asked for some particulars regarding the affair.

"It's a long story," said the detective, "and though most of the facts are known to the public, still I have no doubt but that I have a few things to tell you that have not yet been published. I was at Tucson when the news arrived the West-bound passenger train had been robbed at Stein's Pass, and in company with Marshal Meade, Sheriff Paul, Will Smith and Shibel started at once for the scene. We took four Papagos with us, men that we could rely on as being expert trailers, and as it had been snowing previously, we knew we would have something good to work on. The robbers had twelve hours start of us when we finally got off, but as the tracks indicated that they were on foot, we did not bother about making any elaborate preparations, most of us not even taking out overcoats. We were mounted on good ponies and the Papagos did not lose much time, so at first things went swimmingly, and we made up our minds that we would soon hunt them down. Soon we discovered, however that they had mounted, evidently having had their horses staked out in readiness for escape, and then we knew we were in for a long chase. We had no papers with us to show our authority, and we knew that we would have some difficulty in making a legal arrest if they

took refuge in some Mexican town. It was too late to turn back, though, so on we went and decided that the first opportunity we had we would send to El Paso and have the necessary documents forwarded to us at Chihuahua or some other central point. The first day passed by without seeing a soul, but we were encouraged in our pursuit by the evidences that the men we wanted were ahead of us. Every now and then we came across
A HANDFUL OF CHECKS

Which they had thrown away, being useless to them; altogether along the trail we picked up bank paper representing a total of \$1,153,40. The trail led through one of the most deserted parts of the State of Chihuahua and the weather was as cold as I have ever known it to be down in that country. To add to our misfortunes we had not a thing to eat with us, nor could we get anything, in fact we went fifty hours at one time without swallowing a morsel. So matters went on for three or four days and then I knew that we would soon be in one of the settlements. We had been altogether five days in the saddle when in the distance we espied the village of Jansen [Janos] and I said to Meade and the rest of the party: 'I daresay the men we want are there, but it is no use our going after them, because we have no papers and are liable to get into a hot box.' Meade was determined to go on, however, but I made up my mind that I would not, and taking two of the Papagos with me, started to retrace my steps. I had a terrible journey home, and had the unpleasant experience of riding forty-five miles in a snow-storm. On reaching the New Mexican line, I was so worn out and the horses so nearly gone, that I gladly accepted the offer of a wagon and paid \$70 to be hauled to Lordsburg, a distance of ninety-five miles.

In the meantime matters with the Meade party had gone just as I surmised. They rode into Jansen [Janos] and there were arrested and thrown into prison in the manner that has been described by telegraph in your paper."

"Do you think they were arrested through the connivance of the robbers?" queried the reporter.

"Certainly, the gang we were after was one of the cutest on the frontier. They died game, too, the other day when the Mexican soldiers surrounded them at Cuihuiriachi; I knew they would."

“Who were the members of the gang?” asked the scribe.

“Well, there were only two committed this last robbery, Dick Hart and Dick Johnson, but it was not Larry Sheehan’s fault that he wasn’t there. I found out afterwards that he was with them when they started on the expedition, but at the Pallotterro ranch he accidentally shot himself in the knee-cap and they left him there and went on and committed the robbery. Larry Sheehan, Hart and Brooks were arrested you know, for the robbery at Papago some months previous. Hart and Brooks were acquitted, but Sheehan was held to answer before the Grand Jury, who, however, did not return a bill against him, as there was no convicting evidence.

Why did a Pima County sheriff from Tucson pursue outlaws in Cochise County? He thought the outlaws were on foot and he could get there before Cochise County sheriff, Texas John Slaughter could coming from Tombstone and thus beat Slaughter out of very significant reward money.



Departments of *Fremont Street Mail & Border Vidette*

We encourage our Ranch Hands to Contribute in any way they can to the many departments in the *Fremont Street Mail & Border Vidette*.

The following Departments of the *Fremont Street Mail* are open to your contributions:

Blast from the Past, old newspaper & diary articles.

Poetry Corner

Deep Thoughts on History (Philosophy of how to do history) If you have thoughts on how to do history, send them in.

Tidbits from History Anything interesting

Tombstone Epitaph, an article from an historic Arizona newspaper

Places to Visit

Hollywood Trivia

Photo Album

Local Events

Recipes from the Trail

Out and About: If you did it, we only know about it if you tell us and send photos! **Buckskin Bulletin** draws data from **Out & About** for their report on what the Corral is doing and at the end of the year this becomes fodder for the Outreach portion of the **Heads Up Award** (for best Corral) application. If you did something and it's not mentioned, it's because you didn't tell us!

Departments of the *Border Vidette* open to your contributions:

Long Articles

Short Articles

Reviews & Book Reports

Recommended Books & Articles

Frontier Recipes

We really need some articles right now to get out another edition!!!! We can stretch them or add to them if you have an idea.



THE COCHISE COUNTY CORRAL OF THE WESTERNERS

www.CochiseCountyCorral.org

Invites you to join a fun, informal group of people
EVERY 1st THURSDAY of the MONTH
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm AT SCHIEFFELIN HALL
On Freemont St
Dinner 5:30'ish at the Longhorn Restaurant

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- ❖ Historians will find this a place to present their new research, make contacts and swap ideas
- ❖ Enjoy monthly meetings with presentation of Cowboy Poetry, Short History & Western Frontier History
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- ❖ Four exciting Trail Rides (field trips) a year to visit places important in our history
- ❖ Support local historical and educational activities and the **Tombstone Festival of Western Books**
- ❖ Subscription to the *Buckskin Bulletin*
- ❖ The Cochise County Corral is affiliated with **Westerners International** which represents over 148 local Corrals around the world
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