Saddlebag Newsletter
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Pam Potter
Spiritwind2@hotmail.com

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Available On-Line via www.wildwesthistory.org

Welcome to the Saddlebag Newsletter. Here is the latest information from WWHA. Previously posted Saddlebag newsletters will be found by date further down this section in the list of available newsletters. All earlier information will be retained for reference.

If you have Wild West news, please contact the editor at the e-mail address shown at the top of the Saddlebag page. We reserve the right to include or not include any materials submitted to us.

Our YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/@WildWestHistoryAssociation/videos is now monetized so WWHA gets paid for views**. Please subscribe, watch and like our videos, and you are contributing to WWHA. It is free and a win-win for WWHA.**

WANTED
WWHA Members with Cameras

If people only knew how rewarding it is to travel to a historic site and interview a historian, or to walk where *they* walked, or to stand in emigrant wagon ruts four feet deep, or re-live where the last of the buffalo herd fell to sudden death, or stand over the graves of 4 young children that were mutilated by Indians, or visit the most beautiful battle site...the Wagon Box Fight near Buffalo, Wyoming.
I could go on and on and on. Every time I shoot and edit a video, I learn. I learn about history, the land and the people who are now long gone...
You have the opportunity to join our video team.
To make this WWHA monetizing effort a success, and earn money for WWHA, we need help!
I need three, or more, male or female members with a camera which can be a cell phone, camcorder, GoPro or a Digital Camera. (I can do the editing, so all you have to do is record)
Contact me directly and I can explain.
Eddie Lanham, ejldixie@gmail.com
THANKS!

Eddie filming Chuck Parsons at the Taylor Cemetery in Cuero, Texas.

If you remember, last month we posted a photo of a WWHA member at the grave of Billy the Kid. If you didn't guess who, it was Kurt House. Can you guess this month's member?

Several WWHA members at our own expense, met for a weekend writers retreat in Medora, North Dakota. We are grateful to Mike Cullinane and Wally Owens, a Renaissance Man and the owner of a beautiful private ranch, for his leadership on a variety of topics that we hope to use to further promote Western history and WWHA. Mike Cullinane and Matt Bernstein arranged the

trip and several of us volunteered to attend. We were able to meet with Doug Ellison the owner of a bookstore in Medora and we learned about the future Theodore Roosevelt Library at Dickinson State University in Dickinson, North Dakota. Some of us went on a short horseback ride to show we were emersed in frontier mentality. We also took a scenic drive through the Theodore Roosevelt National Park where we saw buffalo and many prairie dog towns. I hope we also gained some new members for WWHA.

Problem solving. In Medora. Everyone's attention is on President Paul Marquez.

WWHA members practicing their Wild West skills.

WIN $100

Just Go to Your Local Library

Take a copy of the WWHA *Journal* (or two). Talk to the head librarian about WWHA. As the premier "academic" publication of Wild West history, suggest that the *Journal* should be on the library's magazine rack. Encourage the library to subscribe by going to www.wildwesthistory.org.

Then email Matt.BemsteinWWHA@gmail.com with your name and the name and city of the library you contacted. A winner from the sponsors of new library subscribers will be drawn at the 2025 Reno Roundup and awarded $100.

The next time you go to your library, take your WWHA *Journal!*

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

WWHA is the premier, and we're on the top of the mountain while many other Western History groups are looking up to us for answers and guidance. "How does an organization sustain itself in this fast paced/social media driven environment?"

Adaptation: and sticking to its strict code of ethics and policies. That's how.

Yes, there are areas where we'll continue to operate with traditional methods and technologies until a more secure option is available. In today's environment, many newer tools (applications) are unfortunately 1/2 tested prior to launch and can be unsafe.

We value the security of our members and watch out for each other.

Paul Marquez

President

This historic Wild West-era hotel is closing its doors in New Mexico. Here's why

Allison Giron and Bianca Hoops

NEW MEXICO (KRQE) – A northern New Mexico town is losing a significant tourist attraction. Known for housing infamous outlaws, the historic St. James Hotel in Cimarron is closing its doors in two weeks.

It's a place full of history from the Wild West dating back to 1870 when Henry Lambert first purchased the property starting it off as a small eatery and parlor. Cimarron's St. James Hotel housed infamous outlaws like Jesse James, Bill the Kid, Annie Oakley, and other figures like Buffalo Bill.

It's still a big tourism draw, but that may not last much longer. The St. James Hotel recently announced they are closing its doors for business on September 16. "Shock absolute shock because for the employees of course and this can't be happening we knew eventually it might because it was for sale," said Yvonne O'Brien.

The owners declined an interview but in a statement, they said the property is "on the market for interested buyers who are committed to preserving its unique legacy."

The hotel announced its closure on Facebook, racking up thousands of reactions and hundreds of comments. "It's devastating it's a special place for everybody in this community and everybody that comes to Cimarron travels through to go to Eagle Nest, Angel Fire they want to stop at the historic St James Hotel," said Jean Sitzberger.

Locals say the hotel is special and this closure could take a toll on Cimarron.

While the hotel may be closing, many hope a new buyer could help write a new chapter. The current owners have had the property since 2009. For now, they say the plan is to close the property indefinitely.

Below is the full statement from the current owners of the St. James Hotel:

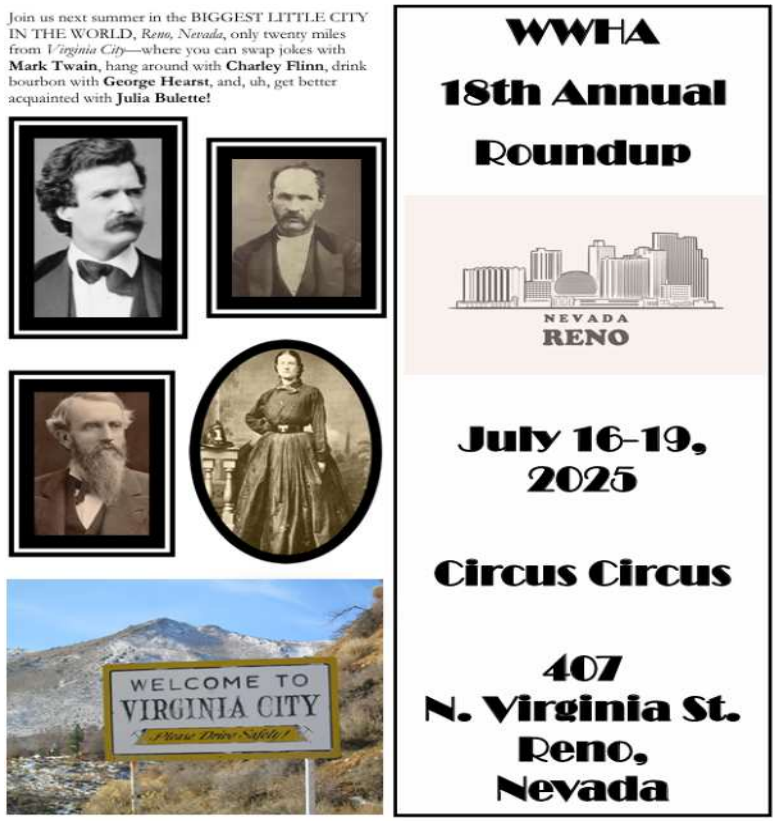
"The St. James Hotel in Cimarron, New Mexico, will be closing its doors on September 17, 2024. The historic hotel, a cherished symbol of Western tradition, is currently on the market for interested buyers who are committed to preserving its unique legacy. The Funk family, who have lovingly owned and stewarded the property since 2009, are grateful for their time with the St. James and believe it is time to pass this iconic piece of history to its next caretakers."

–Jennifer Callahan, Attorney for the Funk Family, Owners of St. James Hotel

ROUNDUP 2025

When enjoying the WWHA Reno Roundup 2025 at the Circus Circus, the "Row" offers 26 restaurants and gift shops for your enjoyment. Those who plan on attending the Roundup can make their **online booking at:**

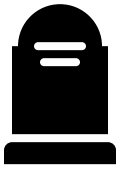
book.passkey.com/go/SRWWH5



Don't forget TTR

Go to the website: https://tombstoneterritoryrendezvous.com for more information and registration.

TOMBSTONE TERRITORY
TTR
RENDEZVOUS
TM



The Wild West History Association Southeastern Regional Roundup and Winter Board of Directors meeting will be held on Friday-Saturday, February 14-15, 2025 at the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Georgia.

Topics of discussion will include famous Georgians and their contributions to Western history. There will also be a historically accurate reenactment of the Street-fight on Fremont, otherwise known as the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral.

The Booth Western Art Museum is a 120,000 square foot world class, Smithsonian affiliated, art museum featuring works from Charles M. Russell to Andy Warhol and many, many others.

There are many hotels and restaurants just minutes from downtown Cartersville where the museum is located. Many within walking distance. A discounted hotel rate at the Courtyard by Marriott will be available through the museum.

The cost of Saturday's Roundup will be $50 per person and will cover admission to the museum and a catered lunch in the museum ballroom. You will be able to register and pay on the WWHA website.

Details are still being worked out and more will be posted at a later time in both the monthly "Saddlebag" and the quarterly journal.

Lecture Series – Saturday, November 9th @ 2pm – "The Tombstone-Prescott Connections"
NOVEMBER 9 @ 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Before their infamous days in Tombstone, many well-known figures like John "Doc" Holliday, Johnny Behan, Virgil Earp, Katherine "Big Nose Kate" Horony, Josephine "Sadie" Marcus, Dr. George Goodfellow, and Frank Stillwell spent time right here in Prescott. Join "Whiskey Row Historian" Bradley G. Courtney and Prescott Constable Ron Williams as they delve into the stories of these individuals—exploring who knew whom, the dynamics of their relationships, and how those connections ultimately influenced the events in Tombstone.

From left to right:

Ron Williams is a 30-year law enforcement officer, and the elected Prescott Constable. Ron has been published in True West magazine and the Tombstone Epitaph monthly newspaper and spoken across the state on Virgil Earp and Constable history. Ron is very proud to hold the same elected office that Virgil held in 1879.

Bradley G. Courtney is an extensively published historian/author. He has written four books on the history of Prescott's infamously famous Whiskey Row. Courtney, a former teacher and Colorado River guide, holds a master's degree in history from California State University.

- **LIVING HISTORY ADVENTURE – SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9TH**
- **FRONTIER CHRISTMAS – SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH**

Tom Moy, good friend of Tom Gaumer wanted to publish his obit for Tom but missed the deadline. Tom Moy has some great memories to Share and Tom deserves a second obit.

Remembering Tom Gaumer
Before caller ID, our friendship began in Denver when we used call signs "CO Tom" and "CA Tom." We experienced the Wild West together with death-defying success. For example our trek to Fort Bowie began near an Indian spring a few miles way. In the desert heat with me in my 1880s outfit and Tom lightly dressed for the blazing sun, we reached the fort hours later before nearly dying of thirst.

On another venture Tom and I joined a wagon train in Kansas where walking was the sensible thing to do to avoid getting bounced out of the wagon from the bumpy, dust-choked trail. That night, I nearly died laughing when Tom chose to sleep under the wagon as the horses tied nearby to a tree did what nature called for. I fared slightly better sleeping in my red underwear with hat and boots to avoid getting bit by grass bugs.

We also churned dust on the road to Hooker's Ranch at Sierra Bonita, snagged our clothing climbing thru barbed wire to see John Ringo's gravesite and marched in the parade at the 125th celebration in Tombstone. Meeting movie stars at the festivities completed our day.

I first took notice of Tom at a conference sitting in an alcove off to the side of Glenn Boyer and out of sight to the audience. He peppered Glenn relentlessly but quietly with questions as he spoke. I could see the irritation in Boyer's face as I listened from the front row. Later I met with the guy with all the hot questions and we became fast friends.

Still Tom did not know me enough to trust that I would keep secret the plan underway to slip out of the convention hotel without telling a soul to visit Ironwood Springs. This surreptitious group was F.O.T. the forerunner of TTR. We left the next morning before sunrise to get ahead of the blazing sun. The trek alongside the banks of a dried riverbed strewn with huge slippery polished stones was dangerous causing me and Tom to fall several times.

After that rite of passage, I was invited to go on other similar treks with Tom and the group. Then one day we finally hit pay dirt.

Reading from Wyatt Earp's own words, Casey Terfertiller finally pinpointed the exact shooting site where Curley Bill died. That cinched it for both of us.

Tom loved to tell a clean joke leaving the gals giggling. He did not disparage anyone. A gregarious individual, Tom had a friendly word to everyone he met. He had a particular soft heart for working people and gave generous tips. Only once did I see a waitress reject Tom's

generosity. She threw down the $100 bill with a disparaging remark as she walked away in a huff. Before we left, she and Tom were on good spirits.

Everyone appreciated Tom's encyclopedic memory on Tombstone events. He gained this knowledge by scouring the Arizona Historical Society and except for proper documentation, he had all he needed to write if he chose. Tom absorbed information like a sponge. His sly humor and insights made reading BJ forum the highlight of our day.

Thus, Tom who never wrote a book and never gave a speech, was consulted by nearly every major writer in the field speaks volumes of their respect for him.

Tom Gaumer will not be easily forgotten nor replaced as a friend and confidant to all he touched.

Someday we will meet again.

Thomas Moy

Happy Halloween