Saddlebag Newsletter

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A supplement to the WWHA *Journal*
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.

June 20, 2023

ROUNDUP NEWS

The 16th Annual WWHA Roundup is all set for July 12-15, 2023, at the world-famous Menger Hotel in San Antonio. Large numbers are expected and the program is one of our best yet!

Call the Menger to make your guest room reservations now. Ask for "Wild West History Association" guest room rates for a considerable discount.

Address: 204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, TX 78205
Phone: (210) 223-4361

The Roundup registration form is available on the WWHA website: www.wildwesthistory.org. The form may be submitted directly from the website to our treasurer, Jean Smith, or downloaded and mailed. Additionally, a copy of the registration form appears in the March WWHA *Journal* and may be copied and mailed with appropriate fees. The Vendor form and information on selling or displaying at the Roundup may also be obtained on the website.

For your convenience and to entice you a bit, below is the Roundup schedule:

San Antonio Roundup Schedule of Events

Wednesday, July 12th

9:00 - 3:00 **Board of Directors Meeting – Cavalier Room, Menger Hotel**

12:00 - 1:00 **Board Luncheon, Cavalier Room**

1:00 - 5:00 **Roundup Registration - Turn in silent and live auction items - Ballroom Foyer**

1:00 - 5:00 **Vendor/Exhibitor Set-up - Ballroom**

6:00 – 7:30 **Opening Reception – Don Strange Ballroom - Buckhorn Saloon & Museum, 108 E. Houston Street. Telephone: (210) 247-4000. Provide own transportation or enjoy easy walk to site two blocks west of Menger Hotel. Please wear badges for this and all scheduled events. Cash Bar, Light Buffet, Camaraderie and Roundup Announcements**

Thursday, July 13th - * Unless noted all remaining events will be held in the Menger Ballroom***

8:00 - 5:00 **Roundup Registration - turn in silent and live auction items**

8:00 - 9:00 **Final Vendor/Exhibitor Set-up**

9:00 - 9:30 **Pam Potter, Kurt House, Dave George, Roundup Chairs**
Welcome, Acknowledge Special Guests, Announcements, Roundup Overview

Comments by Jim Dunham, President of WWHA

Texas Ranger representative (appearance tentative)

9:30 – 12:05 **Morning Programs**

9:30 – 9:55 **Madison Harrell – "Mathew 'Old Paint' Caldwell"**

10:00 - 10:25 **Bradley Nevill – "Orlando Camilla "Deaf Charlie" Hanks"**

10:25 – 10:40 **Morning Break/ Visit Vendors, Silent Auction Open**

10:40 - 11:05 **John Boessenecker – "Texas Ranger Frank Hamer"**

11:10 – 11:35 **Harold Weiss – "Texas Ranger Captain Bill McDonald"**

11:40 – 12:05 **Paul Marquez – "Juan Seguin"**

12:15 - 1:15 **Six-Shooter Awards Luncheon, Pam Potter and Jim Dunham, co-chairs**

1:30 – 5:00 **Afternoon Programs**

1:30 – 1:55 **Tom Bicknell – "San Antonio's Fatal Corner"**

2:00 - 2:25 **Kurt House – "Death of Ben Thompson & King Fisher. Who Was In Charge?**

2:25 – 2:40 Afternoon Break - Visit Vendors, Silent Auction Bids

2:40 - 3:05 Chuck Parsons "King Fisher"

3:10 – 3:35 Dr. James Bailey – "Forensics of the Shootout at the Vaudeville Theatre"

3:35 - 3:50 Break – Visit Vendors, Silent Auction Bids

3:50 – 4:15 Bill O'Neal – "Colonel Rip Ford of the Texas Rangers"

4:15 - 5:00 Announcements - Visit vendors, Silent Auction Open

5:00 – Evening Free

Friday, July 14th

8:00 – 12:30 Roundup Registration - turn in silent and live auction items

8:45 – 9:00 Announcements, Today's and Tonight's Schedule

9:00 – 9:25 Steve LeSueur – "The Murders of Frank LeSueur & Gus Gibbons by the Wild Bunch"

9:30 – 9:55 Gary Ohls – "Showdown at Langtry, Texas, 1896"

9:55 – 10:10 Morning Break – Visit Vendors, Silent Auction Bids

10:10 – 10:35 Victoria Wilcox – "Doc Holliday in Texas"

10:40 – 11:05 Dave George – "Bet-a-Million Gates"

11:05 – 11:20 Break – Visit Vendors – Silent Auction Bids

11:20 – 12:20 Panel Discussion – "Texas Ranger History" Panelists: Harold Weiss, John Boessenecker, Mike Cox, Chuck Parsons

12:20 – 12:30 Announcements, Visit Vendors, Silent Auction Bids

12:30 – 7:00 Afternoon Free. Tours of Menger Hotel, Visit the Alamo, River Walk, Nearby Museums

7:00 - 8:00 Evening Program

"An Evening With...." To honor one of our own. Roy Young, moderator

Saturday, July 15th

8:30 - 12:00 Roundup Registration, Silent Auction Open

9:00 – 9:10 Announcements, Evening Banquet Information

9:10 – 9:30 Annual WWHA Business Meeting, including Election of Board Members
President Jim Dunham, presiding

9:30 - 9:45 "The Last Roundup" Memorials for Deceased Members:
Led by Roy Young and Gerald Schaefer

9:45 - 10:10 **Donna Harrell – "Peace and Tragedy: The Outlaw Youngers Life in Texas"**

10:10 - 10:30 **Morning Break – Visit Vendors, Silent Auction Open**

10:30 – 11:30 **Annual Gunfighters Session – Gerald Schaefer and Kurt House, Co-Chairs**
Speaker: Mike Cox - "History of the Texas Rangers"

11:30 – 11:45 **Important Announcements. Yes, very important!**

11:45 - 12:30 **Final Opportunity to visit vendors**

12:30 - 2:00 **Vendor/Exhibitor Tear-Down**

12:30 - 2:00 **Gunfighters - Members Only - Luncheon - Minuet Room**

12:30 - 5:00 **Afternoon Break**

5:00 - 11:00 **Annual "Boots and Spurs Banquet" Dress-Up Occasion - Please Wear Badges**

5:00 - Cash Bar Open all evening, Entertainment – Ramirena Creek Performers

6:00 - 6:45 Plated Dinner, please place your meal card in front of you; it will be found behind your badge

6:45 - 7:00 **Presidents Awards - Jim Dunham, Silent auction closes**

7:00 – 8:00 **WWHA Live Auction**

8:00 - 8:15 **Fort Smith Roundup Plans, 2024, Elizabeth Weathers, Charlotte Steele, Michael Wallis, Jan Streubing, Co-Chairs**

8:15 – 8:30 **Closing Remarks, San Antonio Roundup Chairs**

8:30 – 11:00 **Entertainment, The Ramirena Creek Performers and Mariachi Jaliscience**

WWHA Roundup Auctions

Please bring any auction donations to the San Antonio Roundup. Or, if you cannot attend the event, please send to Ruth McWhirter, Auction Chair, 1548 Pecan Ridge Drive, Collierville, Tennessee, 38013. Please notify her in advance of shipping at lilyruthmcw@gmail.com.

Latest Auction News:

We will have in the live auction session, the original framed artwork that NOLA featured on the front of the Philip Rasch authored book, *Gunsmoke in Lincoln County*. This beautiful and iconic piece is being donated to WWHA by Rick and Paula Miller.

Once again, we will have ten first-generation framed photographs from the Robert G. "Bob" McCubbin Collection. By "first-generation" we mean that Bob had these made directly from the original photographs. These are, in a sense one-of-a-kid pieces of art showing the clearest and best reproductions that can ever be found. Everything found on the Internet are much lower quality and virtually unsuitable for display. Don't miss out of the opportunity to own one of these.

Special Menger Hotel Tours Available

The Menger Hotel has a historic tour of this historic property that they can provide. Roundup attendees can sign up for the tour that will take place early on Friday afternoon. The tour guide at the Menger is willing and ready to give a great tour. The Menger recommends groups of max 30 people for a 30 or 40 minute tour. More than one group can be arranged if needed. No charge for this but gratuities are appreciated.

Deaths of Two Long-Time James-Younger Historians

We regret to announce the deaths of two historians who helped keep the stories of the James-Younger Gang alive. Eric James, who published his Internet blog, "Stray Leaves" for so many years has passed. Additionally, the affable lady, Shirley Wells, of Wickenburg, Arizona has passed. She often spoke at James-Younger Gang meetings and wrote a number of articles for that group's publications. (Thank you to Nancy Samuelson for providing us with this information.)

Subscribe to the WWHA YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/c/wildwesthistoryassociation (free) and you will be notified when each of the new videos listed below is released. Upcoming videos:

WWHA YouTube Channel upcoming videos.

June 15:	Wyatt Earp's Vendetta (released.)
July 1:	Billy Bonney
July 15:	The Clements, a family of Killers
August 1:	Great Comanche Raid
August 15:	Ash Upson, the man who invented Billy the Kid

Historic Menger Hotel Registries To Be Unveiled

Submitted by Kurt House, Roundup Co-Chair

EUREKA! Two historic hotel registries dated 1877-1881 were recently purchased by a local collector and returned to San Antonio where they will be displayed at the upcoming convention of the Wild West History Association scheduled at the historic Menger Hotel July 22-25, 2023.

The registries are considered important historically because they contain signatures, dates of stay and other significant details of important American personalities from Texas Rangers to President Teddy Roosevelt. Gunfighter-turned-Austin-City-Marshal Ben Thompson, Texas Ranger Captain Lee Hall of the Sutton-Taylor Feud, Samuel Maverick from whom the term "maverick" evolved, Generals Robert E. Lee and U.S. Grant, authors Sidney Lanier and O. Henry, Babe Ruth, and Mae West to name a few, all stayed at the Menger which was founded by William Menger in 1859. Captain Richard King of the King Ranch passed away at the Menger in 1884 of stomach cancer.

Besides those at the Menger, another matching register is currently on display at the Witte Museum, dated 1878-1879 so it fills the historic gap between the others and together with the newly retrieved registers tells the fascinating story of San Antonio's historic past.

The important registries will be unveiled for public viewing for the first time since they were salvaged many years ago by enterprising historiographers. They can be seen during the annual WWHA "Roundup" which attracts authors and historians from all over the nation and has not been in San Antonio since 2009, affording a rare opportunity for those who are interested in San Antonio, Texas and U. S. western history. Papers on a variety of subjects will be delivered by eminent authors, historians and educators, as for example, several papers on San Antonio's old Vaudeville Theater where noted gunfighters King Fisher and Ben Thompson were killed under mysterious circumstances in 1884.

For additional information interested parties can go to the organization’s website, wildwesthistory.org or attend the Roundup which is open to the public for a registration fee.

An Interesting Exchange Between Two WWHA Members And Information on King Fisher and John Leakey

June 14, 2023

To: Kurt House
Wild West History Association, Board Member

From: Sylvia Gann Mahoney
West Texas Historical Association, President, 2023-2024

Kurt,

I am a member of Wild West History Association since I spoke at the Annual Roundup in Fort Worth. I noticed in the *WWHA Journal,* June 2023, that you will speak in San Antonio on "Death of Ben Thompson & King Fisher. Who Was In Charge?"

In my *Great Western Trail* book, I included an event related to the GWT, King Fisher, and a GWT drover who stayed in North Dakota and is in the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame. As a historian, I feel you might enjoy a small but significant view into the friendship of Fisher and his early day ranching neighbor John Leakey on the Nueces Strip.

This story relates to *Lonesome Dove* [fiction name for *Great Western Trail*] and Call taking Gus back to Texas to be buried. In Miles City, Montana, where we dedicated a GWT post. I stood in front [took a photo] of the Olive Hotel, where Gus died after going up the GWT.

Kansas still has a bill before Congress, Chisholm and Western Trail. They have been given documentation that the Western Trail is a segment of the Chisholm Trail. ND Senator John Hoeven has written a bill [yet to be filed} that is historically correct—includes all the Great Plains GWT states, not like Kansas that deleted all the states north of Nebraska. Sen. Hoeven has been reluctant to file his bill / Kansas' refusal to consider the documented truth.

I have attached my research document, in the peer-reviewed, *West Texas Historical Review*. the name *Great Western Trail,* used during the active trail days, 1874-1893, the reason the National Park System historian gave for not naming the GWT as a national historic trail. The NPS superintendent and historian's response to this documentation, "It is out of our hands. Check with your US Senators and Representatives." [Not included in *Saddlebag*]

I have attached a GWT Newsletter about North Dakota setting GWT posts/obelisks north across that state. It was a ND major event and a joyous occasion with so many people who love history and work to have history historically correct. [Not included in *Saddlebag*]

A Back Story of Friendship between King Fisher and John Leakey, South Texas rancher who went up the Great Western Trail to deliver his longhorn herd in North Dakota; he stayed ranching for 60 years, was inducted into the ND Cowboy Hall of Fame, and made a trip home to find King Fisher's grave, to put his name on a tombstone, which he did.
Mahoney, Sylvia Gann. *Finding the Great Western Trail* (Lubbock: Texas Tech U Press, 2 015) pp. 200, 201, from Leakey, John. *The West That Was: From Texas to Montana*, as told to Nellie Snyder Yost (Lincoln: U of Nebraska Press, 1965) Excerpt, pp. 200, 201, in *Finding the Great Western Trail*: It is first-person history of the joy of connecting with trail drivers' families, a bonding with cattle trail history, Great Western Trail, that has brought a love for the truth about history and a bond with those that live on the GWT in three countries.

"As awareness of the trail [Great Western Trail] research project expanded, people provided new primary evidence from their family's history collections, sometimes serendipitously. While visiting [elderly] friends, Gussie Allmer [caregiver] mentioned John Leakey, her trail-driver grandfather. He had trailed cattle from Texas to Montana. She offered an out-of-print book he had written about his trip from South Texas near Uvalde to eastern Montana and western North Dakota. As many Texas trail drivers did, Leakey stayed in North Dakota to ranch and raise his family.

"That trail-era autobiography, *The West That Was,* captured the trail-era memories of drover John Leakey. He carved out a life in North Dakota that led to his induction into the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame. Leakey was honored for being a founder and first president of the North Dakota Stockgrowers Association. [http://John Leakey," North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame.com/Hall_of_Fame/ranching/leakey_john.asp.] One incident in Leakey's life illustrated the spirit of the trail. He told of his effort to honor a friend by marking his grave. The Leakey family ranch in South Texas had joined King Fisher's ranch. Fisher, a notorious person associated with the Nueces Strip, had become a famous local sheriff. On March 22, 1884, [date in Leakey's book] Fisher and US Marshall Ben Thompson were killed in San Antonio in the line of duty, in an incident later known as the Vaudeville Theater Ambush. After a large funeral, Thompson was buried in Austin. Fisher was buried on his ranch near Leakey.[from Leakey's book]

"After ranching for sixty years in North Dakota, John Leakey returned to Texas to search for Fisher's grave. He found Fisher's unmarked grave in Pioneer Cemetery in Uvalde. He cleaned the overgrowth of weeds and placed a marker on it. Given Leakey's honors in North Dakota and the many years that had passed since he left Texas, his return to Texas to mark Fisher's grave seemed unusual. South Texas rancher King Fisher had lived on both sides of the law. However, he had been a neighbor and friend. The trail culture seemed to inspire a need for cowboys to be buried in a marked place in the earth near a place they called home and to have friends who honor that need for a burial spot.

"John Leakey's history had another twist. At the 2011 National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration in Lubbock, Leakey's history, North Dakota, and Teddy Roosevelt came together. Two noted Roosevelt experts addressed the subject in a panel discussion, *Teddy Roosevelt: How the Dakota Years Influenced His Political Legacy and Still Influences National Issues Today*. One of the panelists, Darrell Dorgan, North Dakota National Cowboy Hall of Fame executive director, based his portion on Roosevelt's Dakota years. The other panelist, Dr. Richard Slatta, North Carolina State University history professor, addressed national issues and the political legacy. They were a well-recognized team: Dorgan's documentary, *Theodore Roosevelt: A Cowboy's Ride to the White House*, had been nominated for an Emmy Award. Slatta's nine books on the cowboy era often included Roosevelt, who had adopted a cowboy persona. Both panelists described efforts by Roosevelt that had helped bring national recognition to the cowboy, especially including his friendships with Western author Owen Wister and Western artist/sculptor Frederick Remington.

"The panelists discussed Teddy Roosevelt and North Dakota, which related to the trail [Great Western Trail]. The Leakey, Texas, connection, however, followed the conclusion of the formal discussion. The Celebration's chuck wagon cook-off was in progress on a large grassy area outside the convention center. The chuck wagon was originally designed by cattle-trail boss Charles Goodnight as a portable kitchen for a cook to serve drovers. The teams at the chuck

wagon cook-off, arranged in a horseshoe design, were ready to serve their meals of chicken-fried steaks, beans, and cobbler.

"Darrell Dorgan had chuck wagon tickets and invited me to go. While deciding which wagon would get our two tickets, Darrell stopped to visit the Hawk's Nest chuck wagon group from Leakey, Texas. He inquired about any knowledge of kin of drover John Leakey. One woman with biscuit flour on her apron, a large smile, and a robust voice said she, Linda Kirkpatrick, was kin to him. Darrell forged North Dakota to Texas connections related to John Leakey. I took a photo of Linda and Darrell. The photo of Gussie's long-lost Leakey relative was included in the book when I returned it to her. These examples of trail-era kinship and relationships were common at on-site locations along the trail. The trail history chronicled in this book is personal, memorable history for so many individuals." [200-201]

My comment: Great Western Trail, 1874-1893, served two new markets, 1.South Texas rancher John T. Lytle's 1874 inaugural GWT trip, a humanitarian need, to Nebraska to starving Sioux Native Americans on reserves, and later in 24 reservations in northern states. The second GWT market delivered specific types, ages, sizes of longhorns to populate the vast open-range grasslands, void of buffalo eradicated by hunters. Most intergenerational ranches on the Great Plains originated from south Texas longhorns that went up the GWT.

John T. Lytle delivered 3,600 longhorns to Sioux Chief Red Cloud at Red Cloud Agency at Fort Robinson, Camp Robinson (later, Fort Robinson), Nebraska. Chief Red Cloud had been invited by President Grant to visit him in Washington, DC, to learn first-person what was happening in the Great Plains. The Chief signed for Lytle's herd, and General George Armstrong Custer signed and paid in gold for the military in 1874, two-years before the Battle of Little Bighorn. (This colorful history was collected from several different documented history books–a great addendum to Taylor Sheridan's *Yellowstone'*s series for TV.)

The *Chisholm Trail* served one market, cattle to railheads in Kansas to ship longhorns to slaughterhouses for Easterners who had learned to love beef instead of pork during the Civil War. Drovers from south Texas drove longhorns to Kansas railheads on the east side of Kansas. Tick fever legislation closed parts of Kansas starting from the eastern-side railheads, forcing longhorns in 1876 to the western side of Kansas, the last new railhead at Dodge City.

Earlier, John T. Lytle had blazed the *Great Western Trail* over new territory, passing by the rag town Dodge City, a buffalo haven, going north before it became a railhead in 1876 for eastern beef. When eastern Kansas was closed by legislation to longhorns and the only railhead option was the new railhead at Dodge City, Kansas, south Texas drovers soon followed Lytle's GWT path, a shorter route to a Kansas railhead. Thus, the *Western Trail,* a segment of the *Chisholm Trai*l, was used occasionally, even though, more often, destination names for supplies were used: the Trail, Fort Griffin, Camp Supply, Dodge.

GWT, two markets: Native Americans & Open-Range Ranching,
Chisholm, one market-beef for Easterners.

Press Release
May 2023

Tombstone 30th Cast Reunion
June 23-25, 2023

History meets Hollywood in the town 'Too Tough to Die' when cast & crew from the famous movie 'Tombstone' come out to celebrate 30 yrs. of the famous film!

The town is a wonderland of Western history and activity on any day, and we will be offering a bevy of fun-filled activities and opportunities to entertain you on this special weekend.

Meet The Stars: Among those scheduled to appear are Michael Biehn (*Johnny Ringo*), Dana Wheeler-Nicholson (*Mattie Earp*), Joanna Pacula (*Kate*), Christopher Mitchum *(Hooker's Ranch Forman*), John Philbin & Robert Burke (*Tom & Frank McLaury*) & Peter Sherayko (*Texas Jack Vermillion*). With more to come!

The cast will be signing autographs & greeting fans Saturday from 10-4 & Sunday 10-2 inside Wyatt Earp's Oriental Saloon. And Michael Biehn will be at Vintage Cowgirls. Entrance is free to the public; the cast will be charging for signatures and pictures.

There will be two shows to enjoy, both designed to share the 'inside information' on the making of the iconic movie. And both inside historic Scheifflin Hall! Emcee: Hollywood Historian Julie Ann Ream

Friday, 7-9 PM begins with '*Mescal Movie Set*': Mescal's own Mark Sankey will share his knowledge as he hosts a group of experts who will be sharing inside information on the making of this iconic film, which was shot on the famous Mescal Movie Set. It will be followed by The '*Birth of the Buckaroos*': Peter Sherayko, who played *'Texas Jack*,' will share the "behind the scenes" history of what he did for this film and how the Buckaroos came to be.

Saturday, 7-9 PM is our *Actors Symposium,* where the cast shares their stories on the making of the movie and answers questions put to them by the audience. There will also be a *Western Legends Award* presentation made during the evening.

A select group of authors has been chosen to have their books for sale inside the foyer of Scheifflin Hall both before and after the Friday & Saturday night shows. Tickets are available online.

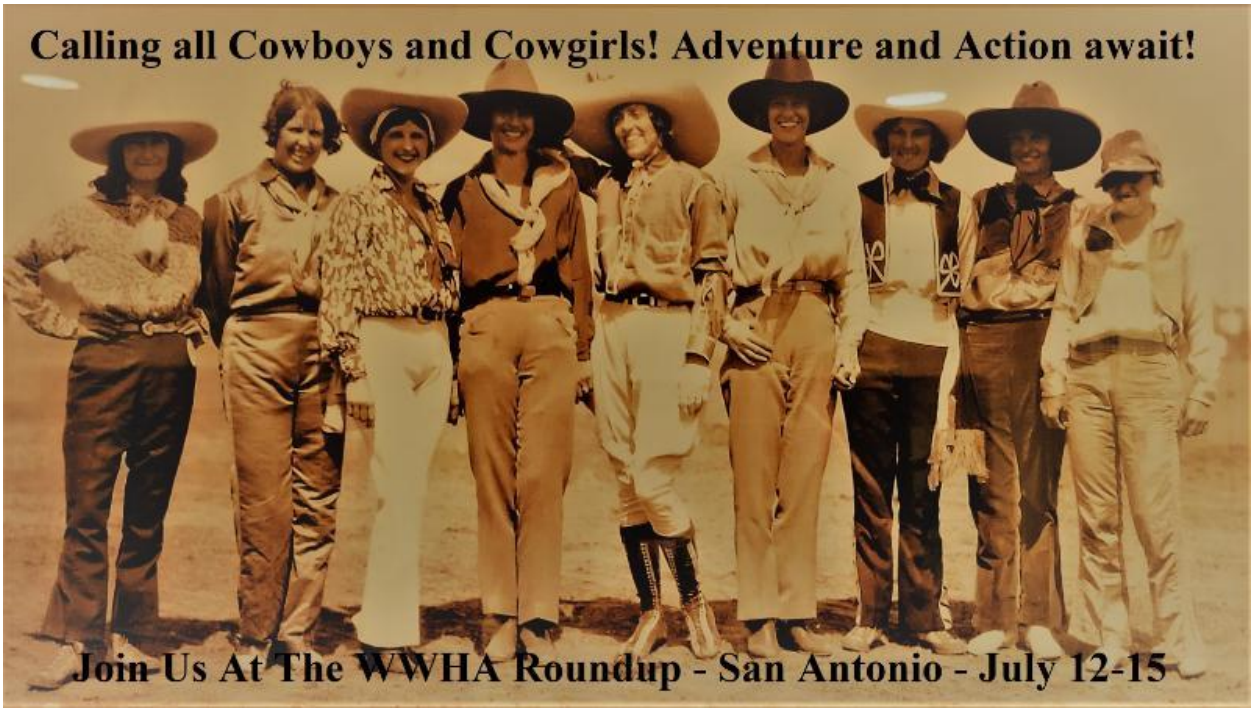
In addition to the great restaurants around town, there will also be food trucks for you to enjoy, scheduled gunfights, True West Magazine will be on hand, and a gun raffle will be held all weekend. Tickets will be available for purchase throughout the weekend, and actor Peter Sherayko will pull the winning ticket on Sunday afternoon.

Please join us in the town of Tombstone to celebrate this historic anniversary. A unique way to celebrate an iconic movie … with its STARS!

Produced by Gordon Anderson

Please visit www.Tombstone30th.com for tickets and information.
Follow us on Facebook : Tombstone30th.Reunion
Tombstone Forward is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization that promotes Tombstone, Arizona to enhance visitor's experience at the historical town "to tough to die".

This just in…

"WWHA is working toward maximizing our exposure on a number of social media platforms, in order to reach a wider, as well as a younger, population. More about this later."

Newly appointed: Veteran filmmaker Jason Ramirez has been appointed as "Director of Wild West History Association Filming." This brings about the following staff of four:
Eddie Lanham: YouTube
Pam Potter: Website and Facebook
David Guyton: Instagram
Jason Ramirez: Filming