

# *Saddlebag* Newsletter January 2024

**Happy New Year**

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**A supplement to the WWhA *Journal*  
Available On-Line via [www.wildwesthistory.org](http://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.**

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**Thank you, Friends....**

On December 14th, I had the surprise of my life and it wasn't one I was glad to receive. I had a major heart attack that morning. The doctors found one side blocked 100% and the other side needing four by-passes. I had wonderful care and came home seven days later. I'm making slow but sure progress. If it had to happen, I'm glad it waited until my December retirement as WWhA editor.

I want to thank all my wonderful Wild West friends, colleagues and associates around the world for the over 200 messages I have received. The prayers and good thoughts have carried me through. And, as the angel Clarence said to George in *It's A Wonderful Life*, "No man is a failure who has friends!" God bless you all.

*Roy B. Young, retired editor WWhA Journal.*

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**From Marshall Trimble, best said in his own words.**

Hi Y'all

Last week Governor Katie Hobbs reappointed me state historian. I'm going into my 27th year. Not as long as NOLA-WOLA and WWHA but almost as long. My how the years fly by for us all. The other guy in one photo is Dolan Ellis, former member of the New Christy Minstrels and Arizona State Balladeer and also reappointed. Every time there is a new governor we have to be reappointed. I'm on my 5th governor. Dolan and I performed together many times at events throughout the state.



Much love to you all and Merry Christmas, Marshall

Shoutout to Paul Johnson our narrator for many of our WWHA YouTube videos. His voice lends interest and authenticity to our history centered videos. Look for the upcoming video where he also lends his voice to a ballad of a famous outlaw, written over 100 years ago.

**Wild West History Association YouTube Channel**

January 1<sup>st</sup>, Reuben Smith, Texas Ranger Scalped by Indians

January 4<sup>th</sup>, The Alamo. Restore Reverence; Memorialize Those Who Lived, Fought, and Died at The Alamo.

January 15<sup>th</sup>, Sam Bass, "Robin Hood on a Fast Horse." Outlaw and Train Robber. Killed on the Streets of Texas 1878

February 1<sup>st</sup>, THE NOTORIOUS LUKE SHORT: GUNFIGHTER, GAMBLER AND SPORTING MAN OF THE WILD WEST

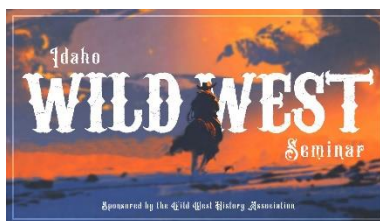


## DO NOT MISS THIS EVENT

**The 2024 Las Vegas Antique Arms Show & Brian Lebel's Old West Events Show and auction are right around the corner!**

**January 26 & 27, 2024**

The 2024 edition of the Las Vegas Antique Arms Show will have something for everyone. Cowboy and Western, Native American, Fine Jewelry, Sporting Arms, Classic Colts and Winchesters, Custom Knives, Samurai Swords, and Militaria.



The annual Idaho Wild West event will be held Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 am at the Owyhee County Museum in Murphy, Idaho the event is free. There are no restaurants in Murphy you can reserve a catered lunch on the Owyhee County Museum web page or by calling 208-495-2319.

## AGENDA

**9:00 – Welcome**

**9:10 -10:00- History of Wild West Guns- Joe Hickey**

**10:00-10:15- Women’s Fashions of the West –Marie Clyne**

**10:15- Break**

**10:30-11:15- Idaho’s Fur Trading Posts-Jerry Schaefer**

**11:15-11:30- Fashions –Marie Clyne**

**11:30-12:00 – 1880 Idaho Prison Break-Bob Sobba**

**12:00-1:00 –Lunch**

**1:00-1:15- Fashions -Marie Clyne**

**1:15-1:45- Butch Cassidy in Argentina – Bill Betenson**

**1:45-2:30- Hank Vaughn: Outlaw-Mike Youngman**

**2:30- Break.**

**2:45-3:00- Fashions- Marie Clyne**

**3:00- 3:45 – A Frontier Soldier’s Life- Corey Clyne**

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***March 22-23, 2024***

***“Unholstering History”***

*A Wild West History Association Regional Event*

*Along the Hill Country Mile in Beautiful*

*Downtown Boerne, Texas*

### **Fred Dodge Exhibit: Saturday, March 23, 2024**

The exhibit will include photos, certificates, commissions, and letters reflecting the life of Wells-Fargo Detective Fred J. Dodge, his wife Jessie Dodge, and their son Fred J. Dodge, Jr., who were longtime residents of Kendall County. The materials on exhibit are dated from as early as 1874 and include photos that have never been viewed publicly. All the items on exhibit are from two collections: the Dodge Family collection archived at the Patrick Heath Public Library and the Duke Key



Fred Dodge, Wells Fargo detective

collection, which was recently purchased by ex-Kendall County Deputy Sheriff Duke Key.

### **Tentative Schedule**

12:30 pm – Fred Dodge Exhibit – Patrick Heath Public Library & Community Room

1:00 pm – “Texas Ranger Jack Hays and Early Ranger Weaponry” presented by Frank Graves

2:00 pm – “Latin Colony Settler Ernst Kapp and the Sisterdale Revolver” presented by Kurt House

3:00 pm – “Detective Fred Dodge and his Wells-Fargo Shotgun” presented by Ron Woggon & Jean Smith

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm – Fieldtrip to the Boerne Cemetery

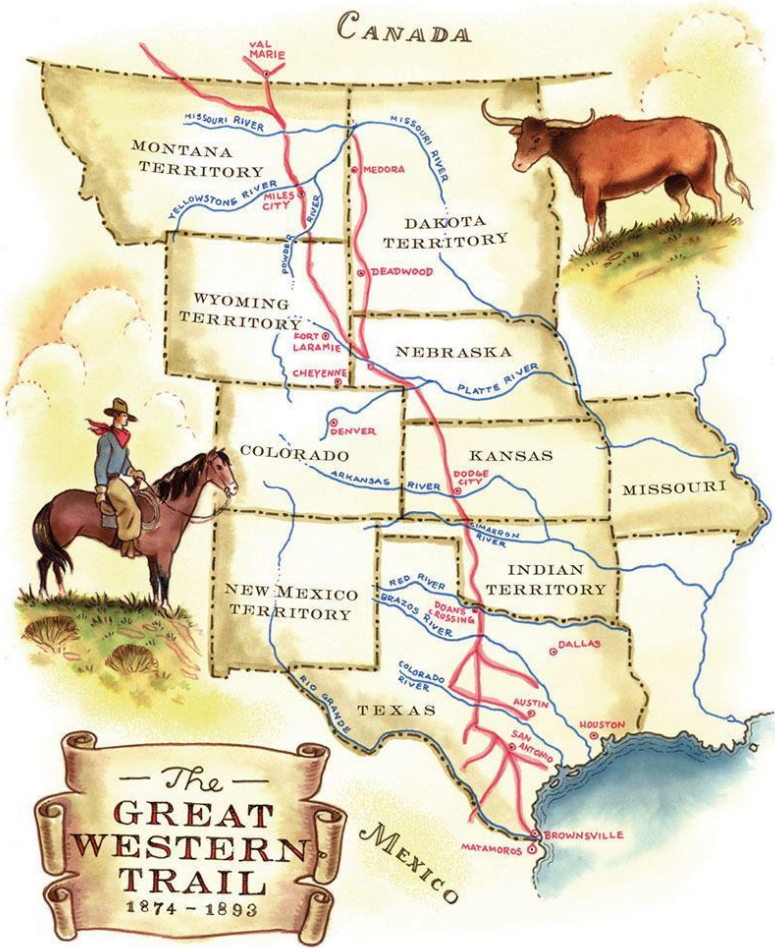
Please watch our website, and Facebook page as well as the February Saddlebag for more complete information. We will be adding more, including information about lunch and registration. We hope to see many WWA members there.



*Interview with Billy Bonney at Apache Summit, Lincoln County, New Mexico Terr.*

Writer's dream, to be able to interview our subjects from the past. Mark Warren, author and WWA member, has sketched the perfect scenario inserting himself into an interview for his book A LAST SERANADE FOR BILLY BONNEY.

The Wild West History Association has been selected to give a presentation at the West Texas Historical Association 99<sup>th</sup> conference in Lubbock, Texas the weekend of April 5 and 6<sup>th</sup>. The presentation will be about our work and adventures repainting the Great Western Trail markers from Alice Texas to Brady Texas, and we are not done yet!



## On The Trail of History

Rotarians from three counties resurrect the forgotten Great Western Trail

by *FRANK BURES* | photography by *SCOTT SLUSHER*

As the cowboys of the Old West rode into the realm of myth, Rotarians brought the Great Western Trail into the 21st century.

At Doan's Crossing, in a remote corner of Texas near the southeastern tip of the

Panhandle, the local folks hold a picnic every May. It has all the things you would expect from a small-town picnic: A few hundred people from the nearby town of Vernon and the surrounding area gather to eat barbecue and socialize. Riders on horseback cross the river from Oklahoma to attend. A Picnic King and Queen are crowned.

But the event, which claims to be the "oldest pioneer festival" in Texas, also marks a piece of American history that was nearly lost: Doan's Crossing was a key point along the Great Western Trail, a major cattle trail that, during its 20 years of existence, was more heavily used than the better-remembered Chisholm Trail. While it was in use, some 6 million to 7 million cattle and a million horses made their way up various parts of the route.

But unlike the Oregon Trail, along which pioneer wagons left ruts that are still visible, cattle trails could be a mile wide and left few traces – except in people's memories.

The Great Western Trail traversed the Red River at Doan's Crossing. It's the spot where Jonathan Doan and his family set up a trading post in 1878. It was the last place where the cattle drovers – the cowboys – could stock up on supplies before they headed north across the Texas border into Indian Territory, as Oklahoma was then known. Doan's Picnic was started by the wives of the drovers who had gone up the trail in 1884. It has been held every year since.

Today, Doan's store is gone, but the small adobe house where his nephew lived still sits in a field, much as it did when the first picnic took place. On an August day, the site is quiet but for the crickets' song. A few stone historical markers keep vigil in the tall grass.

Not far from the house stands a tall white concrete post with "GREAT WESTERN TR" in red letters, and next to it stand Rotarians Sylvia Mahoney and Jeff Bearden, who are largely responsible for that marker being there. They're chatting with John Yudell Barton from across the Red River in Oklahoma, who made this post and helped launch the Great Western Trail project, one of the biggest and most complex Rotary projects in the state – if not the country – which has involved hundreds of Rotarians across three countries.

"There used to be a town here with the streets all platted out," Bearden says on an unusually cool summer day. "There were about 300 people living here, with a school and a post office. This is all that's left. The rest just dried up and blew away." The memory of the Great Western Trail almost blew away too, the only traces being the stories handed down through families and the yellowed documents and maps in small-town archives along the 2,000-mile route that stretches from Matamoros, Mexico, all the way to Val Marie, Sask. That's when Rotary rode to the rescue.

In the fall of 2002, Mahoney attended the National Cowboy Symposium in

Lubbock, Texas, where she met Barton and Rotarian Dennis Vernon (no relation to the town). A college rodeo coach and a member of the Rotary Club of Vernon, Mahoney was intrigued by this almost forgotten slice of history. She knew about the Chisholm Trail and the Shawnee Trail. And she knew about the Goodnight-Loving Trail from her favorite TV miniseries, *Lonesome Dove*. But the Great Western was a mystery, which was strange since she lived right on its path. In fact, it was just a stone's throw from her office at Vernon College, where she was an administrator and taught English.

Back home, she invited Barton and Vernon to speak to her Rotary club. "They came back in a few months and challenged us to participate in marking the Great Western Trail," says Bearden, who's also a member of the Rotary Club of Vernon. "They were marking it in Oklahoma and wanted to extend it to other states."

Dennis Vernon, a member of the Rotary Club of Altus, Okla., was working with the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus to mark the trail, but he realized that Rotary could take the project further than he and Barton ever could. "I told them, 'This would be great not just for your community, but for those south of you too, to help mark this historic trail,'" recalls Vernon. "And we said, 'We'll make the first marker for you.'"

Mahoney grasped the importance immediately. "It would be a history-making project, because the Great Western Trail was the last Texas cattle trail," she says. "It was the largest Texas cattle trail. It was the longest Texas cattle trail. And it was almost forgotten."

After discussing it with their club, Mahoney looked over at Bearden, who owned a chuck wagon and appeared at re-enactments as Davy Crockett. Not quite knowing the magnitude of the undertaking, they accepted the challenge, agreeing to cochair the project and try to mark the trail every six of its 620 miles across Texas.

"When our friends from Vernon Rotary Club joined in," Dennis Vernon says, "that's when it really took off."

As time went on, scores of other Rotarians joined the project – including Ray Klingensmith, who, as president of Rotary International in 2010-11, became one of the trail's most prominent champions.

Cattle trails occupy a key place in American history and culture. The Civil War devastated the economies of the former Confederate states. In the summer of 1865, Texas had little industry, and many of its young men had been killed in the war. One thing the state did have was cattle: millions of feral longhorns roaming the high plains. They were a strange and hardy breed that resulted from half-wild Spanish cattle mixing with English stock. They had few birthing problems, were easy to raise, and were immune to tick fever. And they were so tough they often gained weight on the long journey north.

Before the war, some cattle had been sent north (mainly on the Shawnee Trail), but



back then, people in the United States consumed more pork than beef, partly because pork was easier to preserve. The cattle drives helped change the American diet. In the 1860s, ranchers and cowboys in Texas and northern Mexico started rounding up loose herds and driving them north en masse to Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri. From the railheads there, the cattle traveled to Chicago and other points east, where people were developing a taste for beef – and where a steer worth \$4 in Texas might sell for as much as 10 times that amount.



**At Doan's Crossing, near the historic Doan house, five trail-saving Rotarians gather around the first marker erected in Texas Rick Jouett, Paul Hawkins, Jeff Bearden, Sylvia Mahoney, and Phil McCuiston.**

But first the cattle had to travel across hundreds of miles of open range – in some instances going beyond the railheads as far north as Montana and even into Canada, where they could feed the growing population and still earn a pretty profit. The journey required months of inching along day by day as the trail hands tried to keep thousands of cattle moving together in the same direction.

Overseeing this task was the trail boss, who was aided by about 10 drovers, who herded the cows, rounded up strays, cut out interlopers, and got the longhorns where they were going. Some of the trail hands worked as wranglers, overseeing the remuda – the herd of spare saddle horses.

These were the cowboys, young men (and a few women) at loose ends because of the war or the economy or their own deeds. Most were white, but some were freed slaves, others were Native American, and many came from Mexico. (Cowboy culture first evolved in Spanish California in the late 1700s and early 1800s, as seen in words such as "buckaroo" [vaquero], "lasso," "chaps," and others; see "How to Talk Cowboy," page 36.) Some were criminals, and others were

adventurers, but on the trail, they were all equals.

In time, the cowboys came to embody America's most prized character traits – independence, toughness, fairness, self-reliance. They had an informal ethical code, with a number of tenets: "When you make a promise, keep it." "Live each day with courage." "Always finish what you start." (You will find these and other maxims in James P. Owen's *Cowboy Ethics: What Wall Street Can Learn from the Code of the West*.) It was a simple, hard-bitten wisdom that was the foundation of the culture of the West.

Mahoney, who was raised in southeastern New Mexico and Texas, sees those values reflected in Rotary's Four-Way Test: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? "The cowboy code has so much in common with The Four-Way Test," Mahoney says as we drive across the high plains of Texas, "And I think The Four-Way Test is the best ethical statement. If everyone lived like that, the world would be a much better place."

We are on our way to Vernon, where those first markers set out by the Great Western Trail project now stand. One is outside the Red River Valley Museum on the outskirts of town.

When Mahoney and I arrive, we meet some of the Vernon Rotarians who spent years bringing the trail back to life: Phil McCuiston, who poured the concrete for 121 of the markers with Rick Jouett, and Paul Hawkins, who hand-painted the markers white with red letters. They're each wearing Great Western Trail shirts, Rotary pins embellished with longhorns, and large belt buckles.

Marking the Great Western Trail's route through Texas was a massive project: It stretches 620 miles across that state alone. The Vernon Rotarians were rescuing history, and in the process, they were putting some small towns back on the map. Marking historic routes such as the Oregon Trail, the Lewis and Clark Trail, and the Natchez Trace has proven a good way to draw history buffs and infuse small towns along the way with tourist dollars.

As promised, Barton and Vernon donated the first marker. This handoff was scheduled for Doan's Picnic in 2004. On that day, the Vernon Rotarians gathered at Doan's Crossing. As the dedication ceremony began, Oklahoma state Sen. Robert M. Kerr rode in on horseback from the north, followed by a wagon carrying the marker. From the south came Texas state Rep. Rick Hardcastle on his own horse. When the groups met, they rode to the marker location, planted the post in the ground, and cemented it in place. Then the Texans and Oklahomans took turns pouring water from the Red River out of a Mason jar onto the marker. "Everyone got a chance to pour some Red River water if they wanted to," says Mahoney. That ritual became a key part of marking the trail.

There is a coffee grinder on the side of Rotarian Jeff Bearden's chuck wagon. He

likes to turn it as he talks, "The cowboys would fight over who got to grind the coffee," he says, "The Arbuckle coffee company, which sold a lot of the coffee in the West, would put a stick of peppermint candy in each bag of coffee, so the cowboys would fight over who got the candy." Along the trail, a chuck wagon like Bearden's would have fed the 10 or so men who were driving some 2,500 cattle north for several months. They ate beans, bacon, and other things that could be preserved. Sometimes they would shoot injured cattle or wild game. In Texas, where corn thrived more than wheat, they ate corn cakes, corn biscuits, and other corn-based products. "When canned goods came along, they ate a lot of peaches and tomatoes," Bearden says. "They loved canned tomatoes, because the acidic nature of the tomato juice helped counteract the alkali, they absorbed in some of the water they drank. So, it actually had a medicinal effect. And lots of coffee. They drank lots and lots of coffee."

"All of the dedications gave people this feeling that their community was part of this big trail and part of history," says Dave Mason, a past governor of Rotary District 5790 in north-central Texas, who got involved with the project in Abilene and has attended several dedications from one end of the trail to the other. "They really cemented the whole thing. There was some coordination by email and phone calls, but until you meet face to face, you don't really know each other. Now we're all tied in with 2,000 miles of communities, all the way from Mexico to Canada." After it had the marker, the Vernon club got two metal molds from Barton so it could make its own concrete posts. Then the members got to work. They looked at the map and figured out which towns along the trail in Texas had Rotary clubs. "We contacted the Rotarians in these towns," says Mahoney. "And everyone I talked to was excited to be included and eager to do something in their towns with their history. Some of the Rotary clubs had never even heard of the Great Western Trail."

Ted Paup, a ranch owner and a member of the Rotary Club of Abilene at the time (he's currently with the Rotary Club of Fort Worth), remembers getting that call. "I said, 'You're going to mark it for 2,000 miles north and south? That's the craziest idea I've ever heard. You-all are out of your minds!'" In fact, they hadn't planned to mark the entire trail quite yet. But that would change soon. And before long, there was a trail marker at Frontier Texas, a history museum in Abilene, and another in Moran, Texas, near Paup's ranch. (Paup funded that marker and another about 45 miles north in Throckmorton.)

In Texas, the markers began to accumulate. But getting from expressing interest in the project to actually installing a post took a lot of work. First the club or town had to produce documentation that the trail did in fact pass through the location. This could usually be found in the family histories compiled in small-town museums and historical societies. (An invaluable resource for marking the trail was

"The Great Western Cattle Trail to Dodge City, Kansas," which Jimmy M. Skaggs wrote as his 1965 master's thesis at what is today Texas Tech University.)

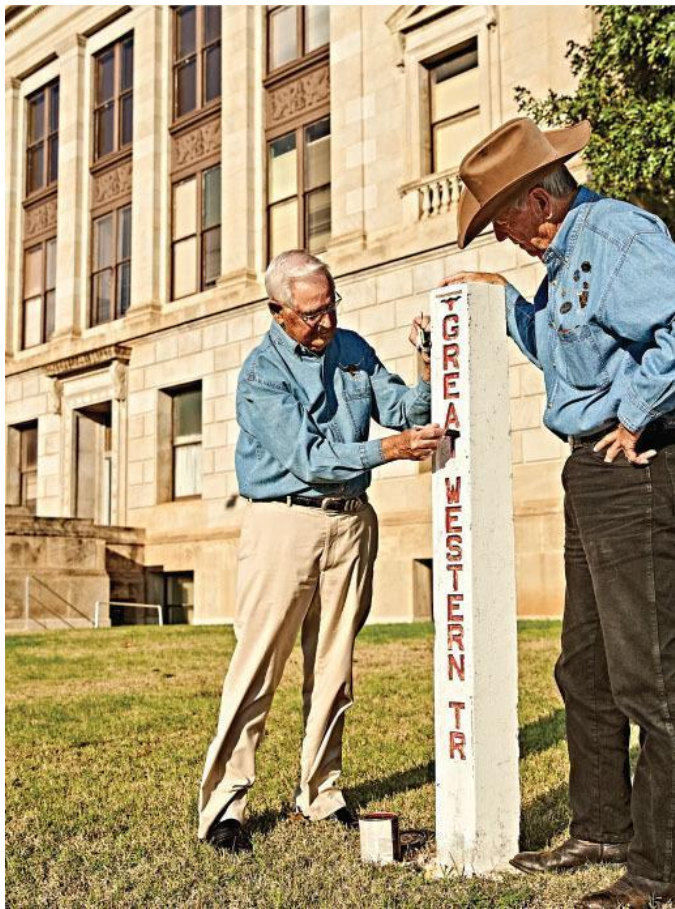
Once that was established, the club had to choose a location and secure any needed permissions. Then the Vernon club would pour the concrete into the marker mold, let it cure for a month, paint it, and work out the logistics of either a formal dedication – complete with Red River water – or a quieter ceremony. (As work on the trail expanded to other towns, states, and countries, volunteers from other clubs along the trail eventually took on the making of the markers.) Sometimes, the hardest part was getting the 225- pound markers to their destinations. But little by little, the trail in Texas began to come back to life.

"It seemed like a pretty insurmountable thing, going from one end of Texas to the other," says Bearden. "But people got involved, and it worked out well."

Marking the trail across Texas was a huge job, but the Great Western Trail project was about to get even bigger. Jim Aneff, District 5790 governor at the time, got excited about the project, and in 2005, while the planting of the Texas posts was ongoing, he invited Mahoney to set up a display at the Rotary institute in Corpus Christi. She packed up her maps and photos and installed herself in the hallway of the hotel where the district governors had gathered. Many of those governors were from states that the Great Western Trail passed through.

"When Bill Boyd [then the president- elect of Rotary International] saw it, and the governors saw it, they immediately wanted to be involved," Aneff recalls. "That's when it changed from being a project Sylvia's club was doing to a very large Rotary endeavor."

Soon, the Vernon Rotarians were fielding inquiries from across the country and even beyond. Dave Mason, who grew up in Chile and spoke fluent Spanish, contacted Matamoros Professional, a Rotary Club in Mexico just across the border from Brownsville, Texas. Matamoros is cattle country, and the southernmost segment of the Great Western Trail was once known as the Matamoros Trail. The Matamoros club was thrilled to be involved. It secured permission to put a marker at the Museo del Agrarismo Mexicano in Matamoros; a location of national importance in the history of Mexico, it celebrates the and reforms that followed the revolution of 1913."For them to get approval to put the post at that museum was a big deal," says Mason. land reforms that followed the revolution of 1913."For them to get approval to put the post at that museum was a big deal," says Mason.



The dedication of the trail marker in Matamoros had an even deeper significance: It showed that the two nations have deep, shared roots that cross international borders. This point was driven home again when Rotary clubs in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan began researching their section of the Great Western Trail. Once they had established the route, the clubs scheduled dedications for Regina, where many of the cattle ended up on dinner plates, and the small town of Val Marie, the last marked point on the Great Western Trail (though in the 1880s, cowboys continued to drive cattle on to other points in Saskatchewan and Alberta).

"If I'd been trying to do that as an individual, people in the next county would have started laughing

at me, because I don't know anybody there," says Ted Paup. "But if you say 'Rotary,' all of a sudden, you've got the president of a club in Mexico saying, 'Will you come down and dedicate a marker?' No other organization can do that." As RI president-elect, Ray Klingensmith seized on that idea of a cooperative international effort to commemorate the trail.

In December 2009, at his suggestion, Rotarian representatives from Mexico, Canada, and the United States gathered for a ceremony at the trail marker in Brownsville (see photo, page 8).

Klingensmith attended that event, and in August 2010, he was keynote speaker when the first trail marker went up in Montana.

In May 2011 at the Rotary International Convention in New Orleans, Mahoney enchanted attendees from around the world with her presentation about the trail and the myths of the American West – while Klingensmith, in his farewell speech as president, celebrated the merits of "cowboy logic" and its intrinsic relationship to "the spirit of Rotary."

For Mahoney, one lesson is clear. "This project could be used as a model for other Rotary clubs. They may not have a cattle trail, but they may have a common bond

with another country. This ended up with three countries involved. When we're talking about building a wall, and there's lots of anger and all that, it's important to talk to people and say, 'This is our common heritage. We share in this.' We created such goodwill out of this."

One by one, the markers were planted across Texas and beyond. In Ogallala, Neb., in 2006, a post was dedicated at the foot of Boot Hill Cemetery, and the descendants of some 40 drover families came to watch. At that ceremony, the Vernon Rotarians delivered one marker and molds for each of the six remaining states: Nebraska and Colorado (which shared a mold), as well as South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana. When a state planted its first post, the Vernon Rotarians would be there.

So far, every state but Wyoming has dedicated at least one marker for the Great Western Trail. Texas is marked with 121 across its 620 miles. Oklahoma has 60 posts – one every six miles. There has been good progress in Kansas (14), Nebraska (30, with 10 more ready for installation), and South Dakota (six, with nine more ready). So far, Montana and Colorado have dedicated one post each, and North Dakota has two. Hundreds of Rotarians have been involved with the project, and numerous friendships were formed along the way, but there are still many miles of trail on the plains for Rotarians to mark.

Today Mahoney lives in Fort Worth, where she moved to be near her children and grandchildren. She's involved with the Great Western Trail Association, which she helped found to champion the trail, document its history, and continue marking its route. (Her 2015 book, *Finding the Great Western Trail*, published by Texas Tech University Press – and with a foreword by Klingensmith – provides a vivid account of the trail's past and of present-day efforts by Rotarians to preserve and commemorate that past.) Her main aim now is getting official recognition for the trail – as well as the Chisholm Trail – from the National Park Service, which would elevate awareness of its history, of Rotary, and of the towns along the route. At this writing, a feasibility study had been completed, and a vote before Congress was pending.

"They say that Rotarians are ordinary people doing extraordinary things," says Mason. "And here a small club in Vernon, Texas, did something pretty extraordinary to help document the history of the trail, to join these communities from one end to the other. Some of them have started annual celebrations based on reinvigorating that history."

Frank Bures is a writer based in Minneapolis. His work has appeared in *Harper's*, *Outside*, *The Atlantic* and others.



## REMEMBERING JEFF WHEAT

WWHA has lost another valued member, Jeffery Wheat. We have been unable to get an official obit so Casey Tefertiller has written what we have been able to find, as well as his personal knowledge based on his friendship with Jeff.

When Jeff Wheat launched into adulthood as a rock-and-roll star, it would be hard to imagine that he would spend the last half of his life dedicated to the protection and advancement of western history.

That is just what happened. Wheat passed away in December at the age of 78, a victim of Merkel Cell carcinoma, a rare form of skin cancer.

Wheat found a degree of fame as part of The Heard, a garage band in his native Rochester, N.Y. After his singing career, he moved to Hollywood to appear as an actor in several projects, notably the 1982 film "Wrong is Right." He then moved behind the camera to become a technical director and camera operator, winning a pair of Primetime Emmy Awards for "Dancing with the Stars" and "Night Court." He also worked on such shows as "Third Rock from the Sun," "Friends" and filmed the Rose Parade for many years.

But it was in western history where Wheat made a mark that will long be remembered. He served in various leadership roles at the William S. Hart House and Museum, helping to preserve the landmark property of the most famous of silent western stars.

Jeff Wheat was riding with Gary Roberts and Chuck Hornung to the WOLA conference in Raton, N.M., and were to meet Casey Tefertiller at the University of New Mexico library. Wheat and Hornung believed they could end the Glen Boyer controversy that day, and they decided to escort Roberts who had been invited by Boyer to Boyer's home to see the questionable documents.

Boyer showed them numerous items he claimed had belonged to Earp and various papers, but he did not present the disputed documents that would have supported his claims. There was no Clum Ms., no Kate Elder diary, no Allie Earp recollections or any of the other precocious historical items he had once claimed to possess.

Wheat, Roberts and Hornung arrived very late at the University of New Mexico, and one by one told Tefertiller the story of the visit. Wheat and Hornung were both surprised that Boyer had none of what he had claimed. Wheat then searched the resources in Albuquerque and came up with a big discovery. The long-lost first draft of Frank Waters Tombstone Travesty had been sought by researchers for years. Waters had told Tefertiller that he had

placed in the UNM libraries collections, but it had not been catalogued. Wheat located it, providing researchers with a very different manuscript than would later appear in *The Earp Brothers of Tombstone*. This discovery caused historians to re-evaluate Waters's writings and realize that his book was not trustworthy history.

In one memorable week, Wheat had played a role in revealing two of the biggest historical frauds in Wyatt Earp history.

Wheat would continue his interest in the Earp story. He has researched and worked with Tefertiller, Pam Potter and others on various projects that are ongoing.

His friendship, diligence and humor will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



WWHA member, Jason Ramirez, debuted his film in Austin where it won several awards. They had the screening at the film festival and came away with Marce Flores winning Best Actress in a leading role, Mike Gomez winning best Actor in a supporting role, Will Jenkins as best director of photography in a feature, Jason as best director of a feature film, and Cruzado as best in fest feature film. It was very well received, and they are looking forward to circulating with other film festivals. Board Member Kurt House is a co-executive producer.



**THE END**