



THE WESTERNERS

POTOMAC CORRAL

ANNOUNCING NEXT MEETING

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7:00 PM

PLACE: Anita's New Mexican Restruant

OFFICERS

2007

SHERIFF

Mike Lawson

DEPUTY SHERIFFS

Francis Flavin

Herman Viola

Lowell Baier

TALLYMAN

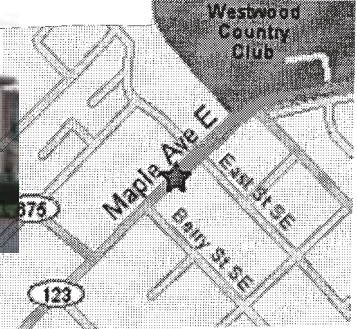
Gene Anderson

**ROUNDUP FOREMAN &
BOOKEROO FOREMAN**

Dale Anderson

**CHUCK WRANGLER and
FARO DEALER**

Chet Hanson



521 Maple Ave. East

Vienna, Virginia

PARKING: No Problem Adjacent to Restaurant

DIRECTIONS:, Phone (703) 255-1001.

From I 495 take Exit #41 toward Tyson's Corner

On Route #123 - Go 2.6 miles (Directions to and further informa-

tion about Anita's can be accessed at www.anitascorp.com).

MENU: MEAL price is \$25.00 - order from the menu.

FOR RESERVATIONS:

Call Chet Hanson

(Or leave message)

(703)734-0858

by Feb. 27

SPEAKER: FRANCIS FLAVIN

**PROGRAM TITLE: "Same Symbols, Different
Stories: The Plains Indians and the History of
American Westward Expansion"**

SUBJECT :

The Plains Indians are among America's most famous Indians. They are recognized from coast to coast, and even overseas. It seems that the shorthand representation for an American Indian is often the paradigmatic Plains Indian—usually a male Indian, and often an equestrian, nomadic buffalo-hunter, who lived beyond the Anglo-American frontier in the vast and expansive American West, and who frequently fought against American pioneers to defend a homeland and a way of life. Similarly, the images, symbols, and ideas associated with the American frontier and the American West are recognized around the world, and recognized as unmistakably and quintessentially "American." Together, American Indians, the frontier experience, and the American West have been used as important symbols in meta-narratives of American history. And more so than any other Indians, the Plains Indians have come to represent important ideas and concepts associated with these narratives. This presentation will discuss the ways in which the Plains Indians have been used to symbolize essential, defining characteristics of American westward expansion, the West, and even America itself.

SPEAKER: Francis Flavin received his Ph.D. in American history from Indiana University and taught at the University of Texas at Dallas for several years. While in Texas, he lectured at the Amon Carter Museum—one of the nation’s leading museums for the art of the American West. He has published several articles, including “The Adventurer-Artists of the Nineteenth Century and the Image of the American Indian” in the *Indiana Magazine of History*, and a bibliographic essay for the National Park Service and Organization of American Historians entitled “Native Americans and American History: A Survey of the Historical Literature.” While at Indiana University, he worked at the American Indian Studies Research Institute and assisted with several of the institute’s native language preservation programs, co-authoring a chapter, with Dr. Douglas R. Parks et al., entitled “Documenting and Maintaining Native American Languages for the 21st Century: The Indiana University Model,” in *Stabilizing Indigenous Languages*, edited by Jon Reyhner. Dr. Flavin now works in Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior.

BUCKSKIN *BULLETIN*

The Westerners International Executive Committee has quired all Corrals and Posses about potential changes in distribution of its quarterly *Buckskin Bulletin*. The Home Ranch is exploring the idea of reducing printing and mailing costs by issuing electronic bulletins linked to its new website (<http://www.westerners-international.org>.)

However, WI is sensitive to the fact that not all members have computers or are comfortable using them. So, here are the three options the Committee would like us to consider:

1. Keep the present printing arrangement and schedule of four annual issues at a current cost of \$8,000 per year with the possibility of increasing dues as printing costs rise.
2. Distribute the *Bulletin* as two printed issues and two electronically published issues (on the web), which should greatly reduce overall costs.
3. Distribute all four issues electronically.

We will briefly discuss these options at our meeting.

NOTE: (Roundup Foreman) The Potomac Corral sends out 76 hard copies and only 12 E-mail copies. One problem with E-mail is that people change them like their underpants. It is very difficult to keep a valid E-mail list because people do not send change of address on E-mail. (Many times I think they are trying to get rid of unwanted contacts)



Westerners International

c/o National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum 1700 N.E. 63rd Oklahoma City, OK 73111
405-478-8408 1-800-541-4650 E-Mail: www.wihomeranch@aol.com

deadline for all award entries is April 30, 2007. Your Tallyman, Gene Anderson, has copies of the award forms which you may request from her either by calling 301/292-1970 or writing to 619 Broadcreek Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744. Following is a brief synopsis of each award in hopes that one of our members would be interested in applying. (A requirement for each of these awards is that the person submitting be an active member or corresponding member of a Westerners International Corral.)

(1) Westerners Co-Founders Award "Best Book" of 2006. Books must be non-fiction on Western History, biography, or of social significance, containing Western personages, sites or events. Not eligible are anthologies or reprints of material published prior to 2006, unless substantially revised, containing significant new material and/or evidencing current research. The book must have a 2006 publication date. First Place - \$250, Old Joe plaque, and Award Certificate. Second Place - \$100 and Award Certificate. Third Place - Award Certificate.

(2) 2006 "Coke" Wood Award for Historical Monographs or Published Articles. Must be published in 2006 and between 9,000 and 24,000 words, but not a regular published book. Entries may be submitted by a group or an individual. First Place - \$100, Old Joe plaque, and Award Certificate. Second Place - \$50 and Award Certificate. Third Place - Award Certificate.

(3) Fred Olds Award for Cowboy Poetry 2006. This award recognizes outstanding contemporary cowboy poetry in the tradition of Badger Clark, S. Omar Barker, and other great western poets. The poetry must be published in 2006 and can be published by a university or commercial press, a historical society, the author, or a corral or posse. First Place - \$100, Old Joe plaque, and Award Certificate. Second Place - \$50 and Award Certificate.

(4) Philip A. Danielson Award for Best Presentation or Program of 2006. This award is presented for programs delivered to a Corral during 2006 by a Westerner. An abstract or transcript along with a letter of support from the Corral Sheriff is necessary. First Place - \$150, Old Joe plaque and Award Certificate. Second Place - \$100 and Award Certificate. Third Place - Award Certificate.

(5) Heads Up Award for 2006. Three awards will be presented; one to "older" corrals, organized before 1973, one to younger corrals organized in 1973 or later and a new award to the most outstanding overseas corral - for programs, membership, publications, activities and community contributions. Domestic corrals receive \$100, Old Joe plaque and certificate. Foreign corrals receive an Old Joe plaque and certificate.

(Editor's Note: Considering the difficulty we have had in getting officers, finding meeting places and most of all getting participation in attending the programs that have been given we don't have a prayer in winning this award!)

If you are not eligible this year, look ahead to 2007, 2008 or beyond as these are given each year.

IT IS TIME TO PAY YOUR 2007 DUES

Please pay your 2007 membership dues if you have not done so. Dues are \$15.00 per individual, \$20.00 for a family. Send checks payable to the Potomac Corral of the Westerners to Gene Anderson Tallyman, 619 Broad Creek Drive, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744.

We send in \$3.00 to Westerners International. That gets your name on the rolls and the Buckskin Bulletin. If you did not receive a membership card with this mailing your dues have not been paid.

An Ode to Prairies

Most people think of the West as mountains, the Rockies, snow covered peaks and rugged forests. But much of the West is flat, open prairies or deserts with hardly a hill in sight.

Pioneers encountered miles of grassland and nearly barren reaches where there was no hill or tree on the horizon. Every step they took exposed the same flat areas without landmarks. One could easily get lost and travel in circles, especially on overcast days. Drivers often pointed the wagon tongue toward the North Star before they went to bed so they would know what direction to take next day.

Sunset and sunrise can be one of the most exhilarating scenes you will ever see. The sun drops to the very edge of the horizon in full daylight, then in a few brief moments of breathtaking color it drops out of sight to leave you in total darkness. Mornings are much the same with a very faint eastern sky suddenly showing the uprising sun and in a few moments total daylight.

Traveling these prairies was not too dangerous because you could see any threat miles away. Hunting could be difficult unless the grass was tall. Prairie Dog villages extended for miles and did pose a possible broken leg for man or horse. Deserts were short of water and grass, however the prairie did not lack resources. Buffalo chips were everywhere and these cow pies dried rapidly in the prairie air and could be gathered for a hot, quick fire for meals and warmth. Travelers did miss the trees and brush but were able to improvise for special needs. If you caught a horse thief or other miscreant, you could tie a rope to a wagon tongue and suspend it at about 70 degrees. A rope attached to the end and around the neck of the bad guy would quickly see him swinging in the air.

Personal privacy was a minor problem. The women with their wide skirts would circle a lady and hold up their skirts to screen view of her toilet. If a man and woman were riding across the prairie and felt the call of nature, there was a custom called the "Distance of Discretion." Riding off far enough to not be seen could be dangerous, so they would move a few feet to the side and do what was necessary, politely accepting the fact that neither was looking.

At night the prairie was a thrilling place as one went to sleep hearing the night cattle guard, the rustle of grass, the coyotes and wolves calling, an occasional ground owl, crickets and other insects, maybe a grouse or pheasant bursting from cover. In the morning you heard meadow larks or other morning birds.

Spending a night on the prairie is a joy no city fella ever gets to experience.

Dale L. Anderson



THE POTOMAC CORRAL
OF
THE WESTERNERS
INTERNATIONAL

P. O. BOX 6161
Arlington, VA 22206

FIRST CLASS MAIL