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LOS ANGELES CORRAL

NUMBER 247



Photo by Larry K. Boerio

Glen Dawson, Los Angeles Westerners 60th Anniversary at University Club, Pasadena.

## Los Angeles Westerners 60th Anniversary 1946-2006

*by Glen Dawson*

Thank you for holding this meeting in Pasadena. Virginia and I live just a few blocks from here.

It is appropriate that the Los Angeles Westerners celebrate this Anniversary in Pasadena because the Los Angeles Westerners was formed in Pasadena December 3, 1946 at the home of Homer Britzman.

Your Trail Bosses wanted an original member to speak today but they did not have much choice. You are stuck with me, the last survivor. I am a living dinosaur. We

are celebrating a few weeks early. Maybe Jerry Selmer wanted to be sure I would still be here.

When the Los Angeles Westerners was formed, the oldest member was **Ernie Sutton** at 86. I was thirty-four years old. If you are here today, thirty-four years old, pay attention. You may be called upon to speak in the year 2066 at the 120th anniversary.

In *Branding Iron* 149, I wrote what I call my obituary and in *Branding Iron* 206 I wrote

*(Continued on page 3)*

## THE BRANDING IRON

The Westerners Los Angeles Corral

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## EDITOR'S CORNER

Scholars agree that a great divide exists between sentimentality and history. Usually that is true, except when momentous events blur those distinctions. The 60th Anniversary celebration of the Los Angeles Westerners Corral is just such an example. It was an historic moment when members celebrated a rich tradition of scholars, artists, booksellers, antiquarians and buffs who have participated in this fine organization. Yet it is a nostalgic moment when one listens to the recollections of Glen Dawson or the repetition of the Native American prayer so often expressed at monthly dinners by "Iron Eyes Cody."

Indeed, the corral appreciates the many decades gone by of sheriffs, trail bosses and members who founded the corral and nurtured its development. This special edition is a simple tribute to the history of this organization and the memory of those who have graced its honor role over the years.

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on the Founding Fathers

The original 26 members included three booksellers. That was a time when the Zamorano Club did not invite booksellers as members. Three members were artists one motion picture actor and one motion picture art director.

I had a dream. The dream was that there would be a book exhibit here today. It was just a dream so you will have to imagine the exhibit. First let me list the original members.

**Noah Berry, Jr** was the motion picture actor. He retired to Kern Country to a ranch with a menagerie of farm animals. The exhibit should have some motion picture clips.

**Colonel Charles Benton** was the ranking military veteran until Major General Frank Ross joined the Westerners. Colonel Benton had a great interest to the art of Edward Borein. The exhibit should have some etchings of Ed Borein.

**Homer Boelter** printer and artist designed and edited the first Brand book and his style is still used. Homer issued Christmas books and a colorful Hopi book for the exhibit.

**J. Will Brewer** was a Los Angeles artist.

**EA. Brininstool** was a poet and historian. The exhibit would include his books and clippings from the *Los Angeles Times* which published his verse and historical articles. You will now understand the exhibit is imaginary rather than practical.

**Homer Britzman**, together with **Robert J. Woods** was the organizer of the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners. Homer Britzman was a Richfield Oil executive. For the exhibit I would like a few of his collections of Charley Russell paintings and bronzes and a set of his Trails End Publishing firm.

**Lindley Bynum** also known as "Pinkie" was a field representative for the Huntington Library and later for UCLA. He wrote several books for our exhibit.

**Edgar Carter** born in 1872 was one of the first white persons born in Wyoming.

**Glen Dawson.** The most remarkable thing about me is that I am still here. Of course for the exhibit I would like the books published by Dawson's Book Shop, a file

of Dawson's Book Shop catalogues and a copy of Stuart Robinson's *Southern California Bibliography*. Bob Gates could supply a few images from his vast Sierra Club electronic archive.

**Clarence Ellsworth** was an artist and illustrator who started the custom of giving a painting to retiring sheriffs of the corral. Some of the sheriff's paintings should be in the exhibit.

**George Fullerton** business man and collector of books. Due to the efforts of Tom Andrews much of his collection is now at Azusa Pacific University. There are plenty of items to choose for the exhibit.

**Paul Galleher** started as the shipping clerk of Arthur H. Clark Company and 63 years later retired as senior partner. You can understand how big the exhibit is when we add a complete set of the publications of the Arthur H. Clark Company.

**John Goodman** was a motion picture art director and a collector of rare western books. He also wrote and published a number of interesting books. John Goodman's design for the masthead of the *Branding Iron* is still in use. The Goodman collection is now at University of California San Diego. I don't know their rules for loaning books.

**Robert Griffen** of Reno Nevada, only charter corresponding member. He wrote several books for the exhibit.

**Jack Harden** was the first Deputy Sheriff.

**Neal Harlow** was a librarian at UCLA, University of British Columbia, Rutgers University. He compiled three large books on maps .

**Don Hill** was in the advertising business. He was unusual in that he read the books he collected.

**Martin Johnson** a commercial artist was the only one who was a charter member of both the Chicago Corral and the Los Angeles Corral.

**J. Gregg Layne** was the greeter at Silverwoods, an author, editor of the *Quarterly of the Southern California Historical Society*. One of his collections of California history is now at USC and the other at UCLA.

**W.W. Robinson** worked for the Title



Photo by Larry K. Boerio

60th Anniversary Glen Dawson, Ken Pauley. October 2006.

Insurance and Trust Company writing many historical booklets, books including *Ranches Become Cities*, and books for children. The exhibit is growing.

**John Rollinson** was a cowboy, rancher and author of books published by Caxton in Idaho.

**Jack Sahr** was rodeo contestant and cattle buyer.

**Ernest Sutton** born in 1862 was the first mayor of South Pasadena. His autobiography *A Life Worth Living* was published by Homer Britzman.

**Robert Woods** was an apartment house owner and manager and a persistent book buyer. His collection was purchased by the University of Alberta. I would like to see the whole collection moved to southern California.

**Arthur Woodward** wrote a number of items for the exhibit. He was Director of History at the Los Angeles County Museum, and a veteran of both World War I and World War II. His personal collection belongs to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson.

**Charles Yale** had a degree in library science, worked at Vromans, was general manager at Dawson's Book Shop and had his own antiquarian bookshop in Pasadena.

We will include a set of Yale catalogs in

the exhibit.

**James Robert Williams** was a cowboy cartoonist. He attended to December, 1946 meeting but his membership lasted one evening. Apparently he never attended another meeting.

The charter members were those invited to the organization meeting by Homer Britzman and Robert Woods. It would be interesting to know who was invited but declined or were not able to attend.

I do not consider it unlucky that I am the 13th Sheriff and now senior surviving Sheriff. **Ernie Hovard** will have to wait a little longer to be Senior Sheriff. A selection of Ernie's Chumash artifacts add variety to the book exhibit.

The Los Angeles Westerners was incorporated in 1959 when I was Sheriff and Charles Rudkin was Registrar. There have been sixty Sheriffs and one Honorary Sheriff, Charles Rudkin.

**Charles N. Rudkin** was an executive of the Edison Company. He contributed seven volumes to the Early California Travels Series, two are translations from Spanish and four are translations from French. Charles Rudkin was scheduled to be Sheriff in 1964 but could not serve due to illness. He was elected Honorary Sheriff, the only one to

hold that office. (See *Branding Iron* 87)

For the dream exhibit there are 22 *Brand Books*, all but one follow the design of Homer Boelter. We would add to the exhibit the *Brand Books* of the Chicago Corral, the Denver Corral and the San Diego Corral. There is a file of 247 issues of the *Branding Iron* plus Keepsakes.

After including the books and articles of the original members, there is no particular order, but I remember from my dream: Westernlore publications of Paul Bailey, Tom Andrews and the publications of the *Historical Society of Southern California*, Doyce Nunis and a set of the *Southern California Quarterly*.

There would be books by Ed Ainsworth, Henry Clifford, Don Meadows, Harry C James, Earle Forrest, John Caughey, Robert G. Cowan, Bill Kimes, Abe Hoffman, John Kemble, John Robinson, Ray Billington, Ed Carpenter, and paintings and books by Don Luis Perceval, Bill Bender, John Hilton, Burt Procter and Andy Dagosta.

We will probably have to borrow space for the exhibit from Fuller Seminary because of the publications of Msgr. Francis Weber, the railroad books of Donald Duke, writings of Francis Farquhar and the Sierra Club, the publications of F. W. Hodge and Carl Dentzel and the Southwest Museum. Bill Hendricks and the Baja California Symposiums, translations by Froy Tiscareño, the yet to be published biographies by Nick Curry, the indexes of Mike Harrison, books by Warren Lewis, Iron Eyes Cody, Jack Reynolds, E. I. Edwards, Dudley Gordon, Paul Gray, Earl Nation, Ken Pauley, Ernie Marquez and Ron Woolsey.

When in my dream I came to Walt Wheelock and the La Siesta Press I woke up. That's the end of my dream and my time. You will have to select the rest of the exhibit yourself.

The Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners has had a great sixty years and with your present membership and officers, the future is bright. Thanks to all of you.

## The Great Spirit Prayer

Oh Great Spirit whose voice in the winds I hear,

And whose breath gives life to all the world,  
Hear me.

Before you I come, one of your many children.

Small and weak am I.

Your strength and wisdom I need.

Make me walk in beauty and make my eyes  
ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my heart and hands respect the things  
you have made, and my ears sharp to hear  
your voice.

Make me wise that I may know all you have  
taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden  
away in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be superior to my  
brother but to fight my greatest enemy,  
myself.

Make me ready to stand before you with  
clean hands and straight eyes.

When Life fades, as the fading sunset, may  
my spirit stand before you without shame.

—attributed to "Iron Eyes Cody"





Photo by Larry K. Boerio

Past Sheriffs Los Angeles Westerners 60th Anniversary at University Club, Pasadena.

In December, 1946, a meeting was called by Homer Britzman and Robert J. Woods to organize the Los Angeles Corral of a new group known as The Westerners. The Los Angeles Corral was the fourth corral organized in the country.

On October 14, 2006, the Los Angeles Corral of Westerners held their 60th anniversary celebration at the University Club of Pasadena. Nearly 120 members and guests attended the gala, which included the corral's distinguished special guest of honor and former sheriff, Glen Dawson. The duo-guitarist team of Ken Soderlund and Michael Ryan provided a melodic backdrop

for the luncheon. Bill Warren created a visual presentation of past events in the corral's history, including over forty rare photos of past sheriffs and corral members. This photo montage was made available on a CD for sale after the luncheon.

The organizing committee included Pat Adler-Ingram, Margie Green, Eric Nelson, Ken Pauley, Paul Rippens and Paul Showalter. A special thanks goes to Jerry Selmer, chairperson of the organizing committee. This memorable event was certainly a high point of the year and many thanks go to all those who participated in the festivities and helped organize the event.







Photo by Larry K. Boerio

60th Anniversary October 2006



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60th Anniversary October 2006

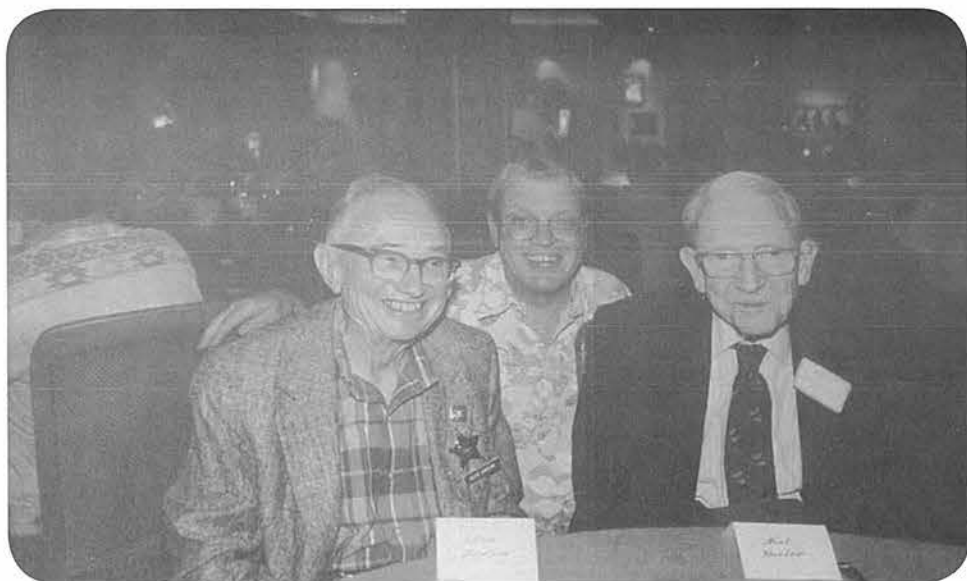


Who wants to buy this wheel?



What's this? No dancing girls this year?

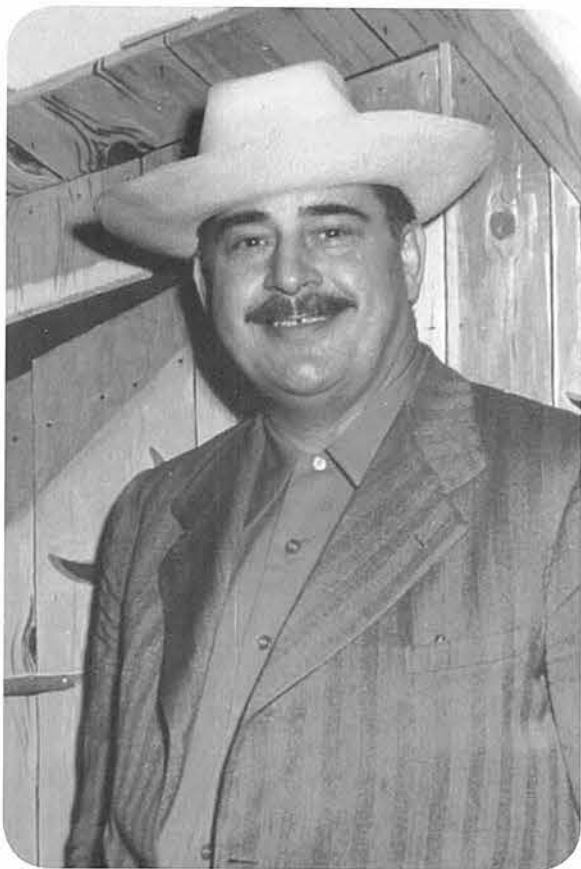




Bartender, bring each of these guys a sasparilla.



That's Iron Eyes' camper in the background.



Homer and his backyard convenience.



The mob just before the lynching.



Noah Beery and the Breakfast of Champions.



Line up the usual suspects at Taix.



Rendezvous at Bent's Fort, Sierra Madre.



Which twin had the Tony?



Mountain climber extraordinaire.



Map man of the West.



Second Sheriff, 1949.



This isn't Guatemalan coffee.





Esteemed book collector.



Art Clark's right arm.



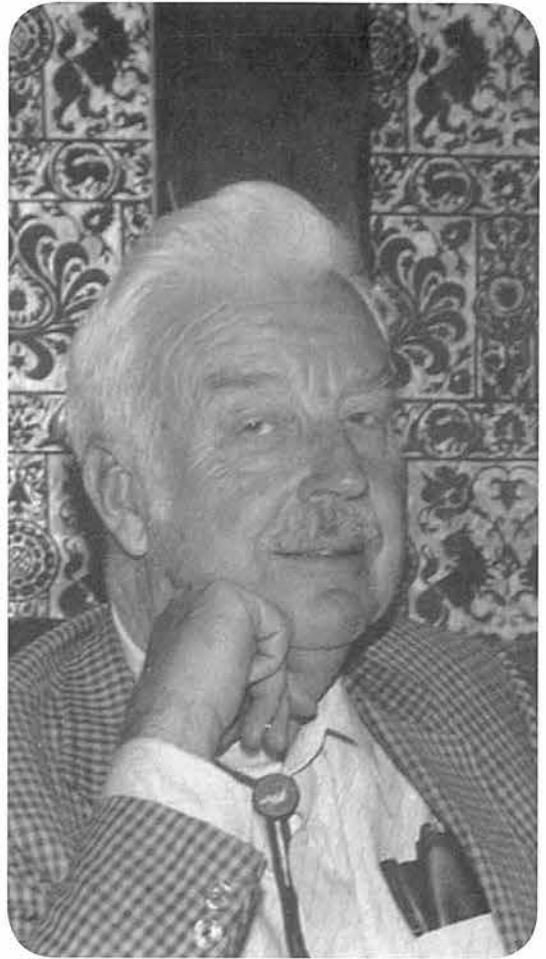
Los Angeles' biographer.



J. Gregg Layne



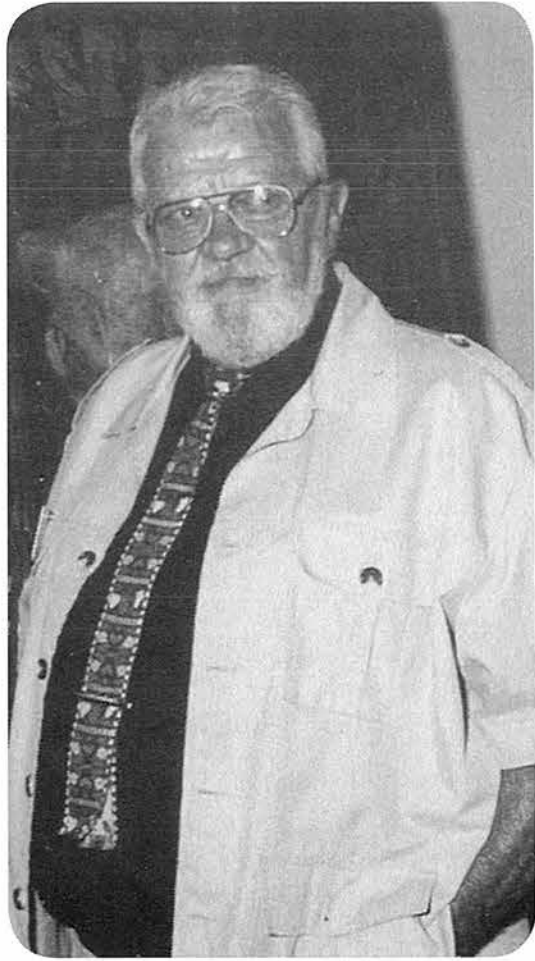
Art Woodward



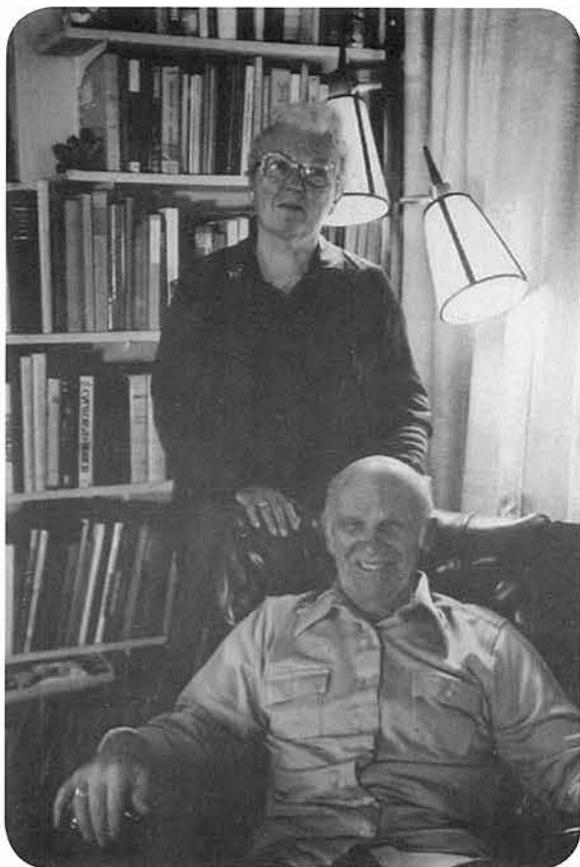
Mission decoration specialist.



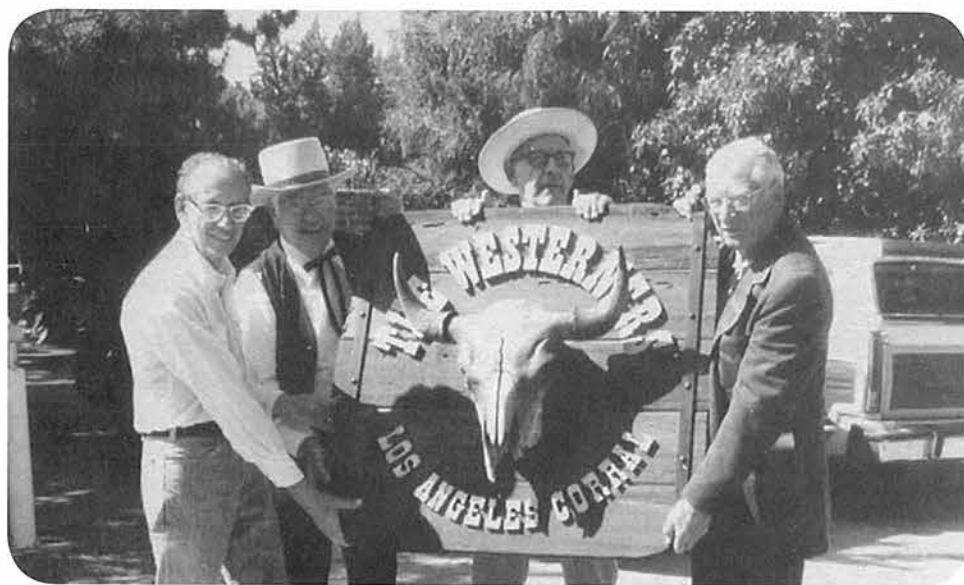
Mr. Baja



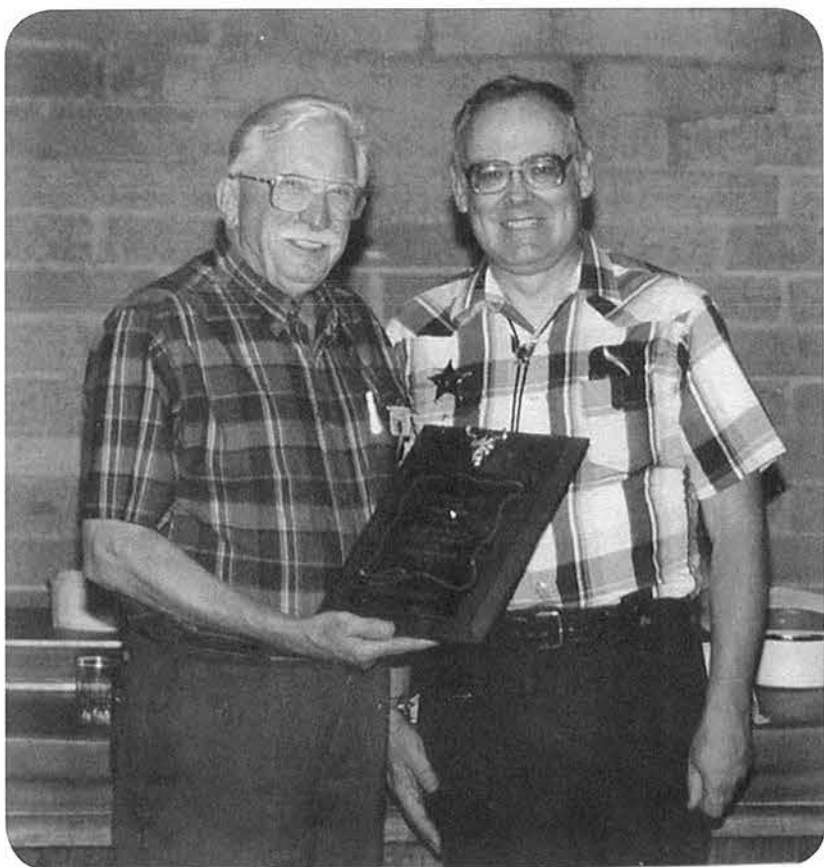
Boatman extraordinaire.



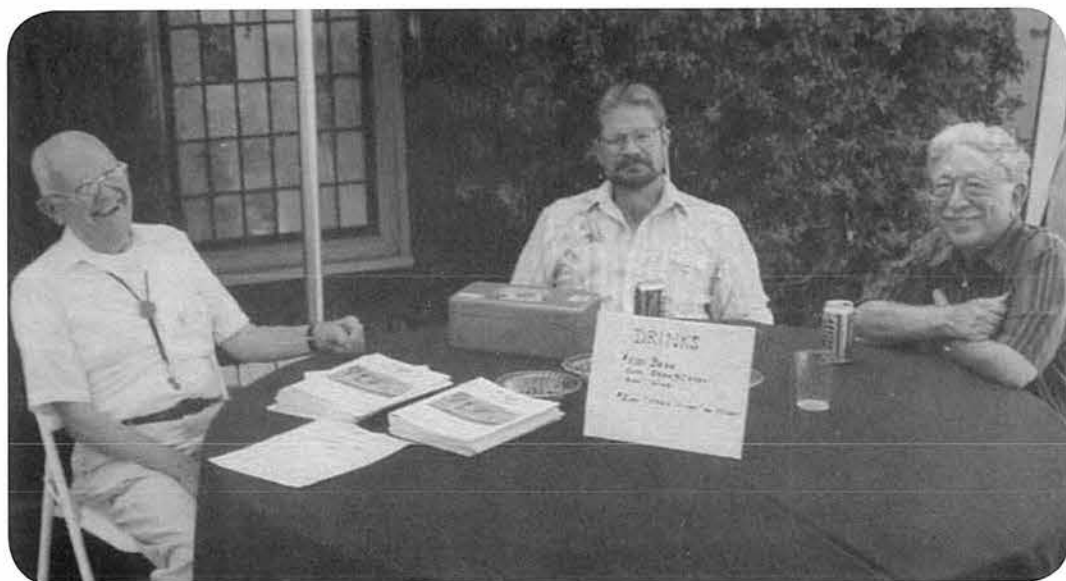
World's best bibliographers.



Billington's gift to the Corral.



Blew gets tagged by Abe.



Would you trust this trio?





It must be 5pm somewhere.



Three gay caballeros, or something.



At the Oak of the Golden Wet Dream.



Ray "Marblemouth" Zeeman.



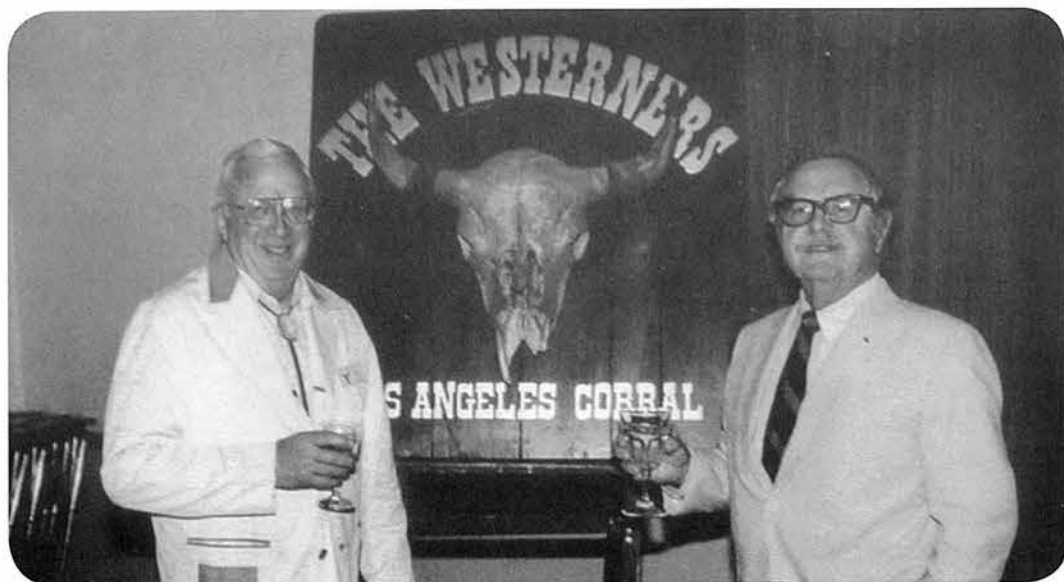
That'll be 25 smackers please.



Gentleman Ray Nicholson.



Some kid from Fullerton.



Ach du lieber, a fine bull.