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)
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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That'll be 25 smackers please.

Gentleman Ray Nicholson.
At the Oak of the Golden Wet Dream.

Ray “Marblemouth” Zeeman.

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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.

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

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We will include a set of Yale catalogs in the exhibit.

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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 Howard** 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 1939 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

It must be 5pm somewhere.

Three gay caballeros, or something.
Blew gets tagged by Abe.

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*, Doycs Nunis and a set of the *Southern California Quarterly*.

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 of 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.

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**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"
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.
Mr. Baja

Boatman extraordinaire.

60th Anniversary October 2006

Photo by Larry K. Revento

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Who wants to buy this wheel?

What's this? No dancing girls this year?

Art Woodward

Mission decoration specialist.
Bartender, bring each of these guys a sasparilla.

That's Iron Eyes' camper in the background.
Homer and his backyard convenience.

Esteemed book collector.

Art Clark's right arm.

The mob just before the lynching.
Second Sheriff, 1949.

This isn't Guatemalan coffee.

Noah Beery and the Breakfast of Champions.

Line up the usual suspects at Taix.
Rendezvous at Bent’s Fort, Sierra Madre.

Mountain climber extraordinaire.

Map man of the West.

Which twin had the Tony?
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Would you trust this trio?

hold that office. (See Branding Iron 87)

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