

# The TEXAS JACK SCOUT

VOLUME IX NO.2

JUNE 1994

## A MEMORABLE WEEKEND AT THE NATIONAL COWBOY HALL OF FAME (Thanks to Texas Jack Omohundro!)

By Julie Omohundro Greene

The prestigious Western Heritage Wrangler Award was presented to descendants of Texas Jack Omohundro when he was recently inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame's Hall of Great Western Performers.

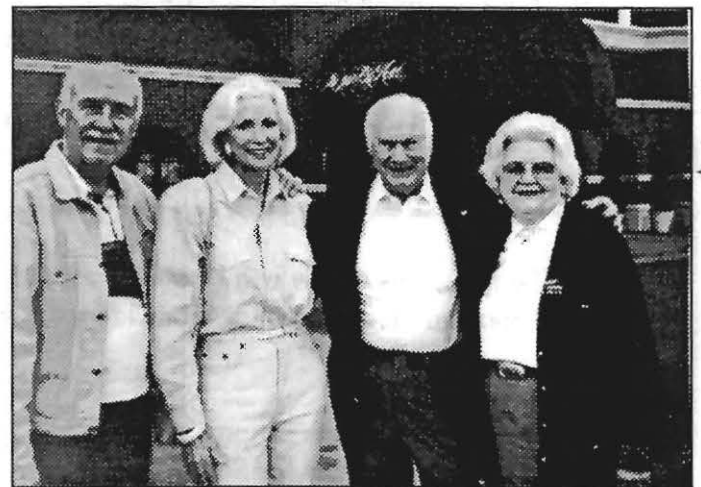
The ceremony took place on March 19, 1994 at the Hall's Oklahoma City museum, and was hosted by television actor, John Ritter. Recipients in some of the other categories included the film GERONIMO and the T.V. movie RETURN OF LONESOME DOVE. Long-time cowboy film actor, Jack Elam joined Texas Jack as the other 1994 inductee into the Hall of Great Western Performers.

The two Jacks joined many famous film and television personalities honored in previous years, including John Wayne, Glenn Ford, James Stewart, Clint Eastwood and the entire cast of the GUNSMOKE television series. It is quite interesting to note that Texas Jack Omohundro is the first stage performer to be so honored

\* \* \* \*

Well now..., how did this wonderful and

exciting turn of events come to happen???? We must go back to the 1992 TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION Round-up which took place in San Antonio, TX.



Dennis and Julie Greene & Jack and Jane Omohundro pose in front of their Hotel.

At that time, outgoing Association president, Jack Omohundro of Crowley, LA reported that he had been making great efforts to convince the Hall of Fame that Texas Jack Omohundro was surely worthy of their attention. The campaign to get Texas Jack recognized by the Hall started back in 1984 when my husband Dennis and



## Greetings!

What a milestone for the Association when Texas Jack was recently inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame's "Hall of Great Western Performers"! All credit for this honor goes to Jack H. Omohundro, Jr. (our immediate past president), who volunteered for this project at the Richmond Rally in 1988. Over the years Jack wrote numerous letters promoting Texas Jack as a candidate for the Hall of Fame. Most people would have given up after the first year or two or the first several rejection letters, but not Jack. He persevered and persisted and this year he was successful. On behalf of the entire Association, "THANKS A MILLION, JACK!!"

Another exciting event has been the publication of a book by Edna Nees (our current vice-president and secretary). Her book updates the family record of John Burwell Omohundro whose twelve offspring include Texas Jack. Entitled JOHN

BURWELL OMOHUNDRO'S DESCENDANTS, it is a handsome companion to THE OMOHUNDRO GENEALOGICAL RECORD which was published in 1950 by John Burwell's youngest child, Malvern Hill. Edna's book, bound in a similar burgundy cover, picks up where the "Big Book" left off and continues to the present generation. Among the many photographs and documents included in the book is a letter written in 1875 by Texas Jack to his brother Wood. For more details, see elsewhere in the issue.

The Roundup in Lowell, Massachusetts is just around the corner! I encourage you to join us in the city where Jack and Josephine had a home and where Josephine returned to live after Jack's death. Henry Kucharzyk and Peter Alexis have planned a wonderful itinerary; I guarantee that this will be another of our famous fun-filled gatherings!

See you there !

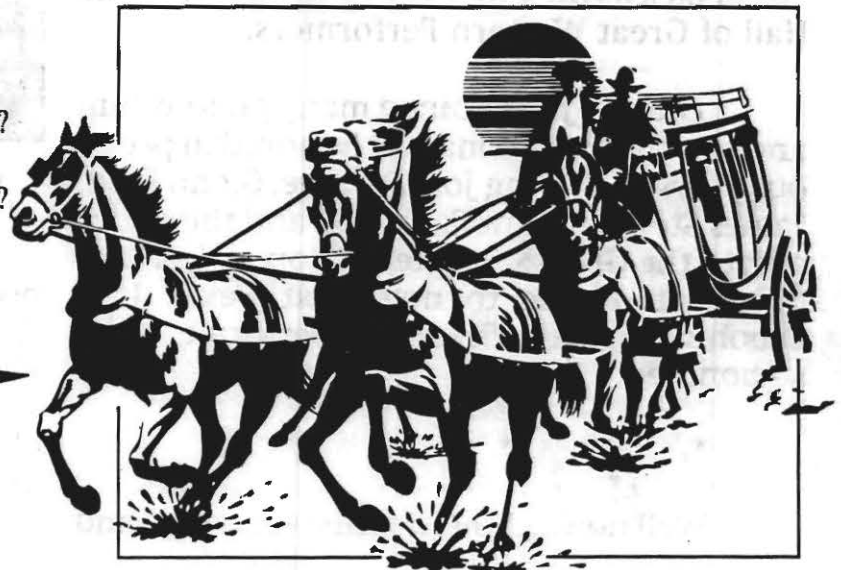
*Kitty*  
Kitty



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The questions below will be addressed at the business meeting in Lowell. If you are not able to attend, you can mail you suggestions/ideas to: Kitty Pelkan/5021 37th Ave. SW/Seattle, WA 98126.

1. Volunteers/nominations for president?
2. Volunteers/nominations for SCOUT editor?
3. Location of next Roundup?
4. Volunteer(s) to organize the next Roundup?
5. Other comments?



## from the Editor's Desk...



Dear TJA members,

Once again we are proud to bring you another wonderfully informative issue of the SCOUT. For those of us who didn't attend Texas Jack's induction into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, Julie Greene has brought it to us with a detailed account of her time in Oklahoma City, including lots of pictures. Thank you Julie!

The 1994 Round-Up is being held July 20th-23rd in Lowell, Massachusetts. The itinerary is published again in this issue along with reservation information. It's going to be a great time so I hope a lot of you can attend. Wear your Texas Jack T-Shirt to the registration and be automatically entered in a prize drawing. Wearing our T-Shirts is a great way to spread the word about Texas Jack to other people in the hotel and around town. Edna Nees has the T-Shirts for sale. They are \$15 for adults and \$12 for children and can be ordered by writing to Edna at Route 1 Box 250, Scottsville, VA. 24590.

In this issue Edna shares with everyone how she came to write an Omohundro Genealogy. As an owner of a copy I can wholeheartedly recommend it. It's informative, well-written, and very interesting. Edna had 300 copies made and has agreed to bring some to Lowell. They sell for \$40 each.

Till next time

*Peggy*

PEGGY



## WELCOME! to new members...

John F. Farrell of Tampa, Fla  
Dr. George R. Ward of Jackson, AL  
Dr. R.E. Omohundro of Fort Worth, TX  
Susan O. Wood of Thomasville, GA  
Mrs. Mary Ann Maxwell of Houston, TX  
Mrs. William B. Omohundro of Wichita Falls, TX  
William H. Foster, Jr. of Sherman, TX  
Elizabeth Ann Omohundro of Irving, TX  
Michael Joseph Omohundro of Englewood, CO  
Grace Erwin of Kirksey, KY  
William S. Goodman of Shadyside, MD  
Egil Krogh, Jr. of Bellevue, WA  
Letitia Davis of Kirkland, WA

Karl Willard of Longwood, Fla  
Minor Omohundro of Charlottesville, VA  
Elizabeth Kucharzyk of Twin Lakes, WI  
Mary Cullen of Seabrook, TX  
George C. Eliades, Jr. of Lowell, MA  
Nancy Foster McGraw of Englewood, CO  
Mrs. Virginia Sample of Palmyra, VA  
Evan S. Foster of Plano, TX  
William H. Foster, III of Smyrna, GA  
Mrs. William H. Foster, Jr. of Sherman, TX  
Ms. Marianne Underwood of Sacramento, CA

Cont. from pg. 1

I contacted them and submitted information about the "forgotten scout". Our initial efforts were taken on in earnest by Jack Omohundro when he became Association president in 1990.

At the San Antonio meeting, he encouraged us all to write letters to the Hall, and he himself promised not to "let up" on the project. ( I was later informed by the Hall that their Texas Jack correspondence file was some three inches thick!).

Jack's persistence paid off when he received a call from the museum in February informing him of the exciting news. As Dennis and I had set up the original structure of the Association which included publishing the brochure and the first eight issues of the SCOUT, and as our current president Kitty Pelkan was out of the country, Jack suggested we join him in receiving the honors.

The experience turned out to be an entire weekend of unforgettable events, one which I would like to share with all of Texas Jack's descendants and Association members.

\* \* \* \* \*

Oklahoma City has a pioneer heritage which dates back to April 22, 1889.

On that day, exactly at noon, thousands of hopeful settlers, at the sound of the starting shot of a cavalryman's gun, raced out in buckboards, on horseback, indeed on foot, to claim their own plot from the more than two million acres of assigned land which had at that moment been declared open for settlement. By the end of the day, 5,000 people had settled in what is now Oklahoma City - dubbing it "the city that was created in a single day".

From that momentous historical be-

ginning, it has progressed to a widely diversified cosmopolitan city which has still not lost it's "out west" charm. Oklahoma City boasts many western and cultural attractions including more than ten museums. None, however, surpasses the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center.

\* \* \* \* \*

Upon our arrival at the Oklahoma City airport Thursday night, after a seven hour, three leg flight from Carmel, CA, Dennis and I expected to find a taxi or hotel limo to take us into town. Instead, we were surprised and delighted to find that mu-



Julie Greene with Bill McMullin

seum docent, Bill McMullin had come to welcome and deliver us to our hotel. As Bill dropped us off, he offered to show us Oklahoma City and surrounding areas the following day....an offer which we readily accepted, as we had come a day early to "see something of the locality".

At the hotel, we connected with Jack and his wife Jane Omohundro, who had arrived by car earlier in the day. Jack had picked up our museum "welcome and intinerary package" at the hospitality desk.

It explained the events which were to take place during our weekend. The program was to officially commence with a Friday evening Welcome Reception for Honorees (us!), M.C.'s and the Hall's Board of Directors.

\* \* \* \* \*

After a good night's rest, and a leisurely breakfast, Jack and Jane joined us on our unofficial tour with Bill McMullin, who seemed to know the area well in spite of the fact that he was, in his words, "a come-here, not a born-here". We toured neighborhoods of beautiful, well kept homes on quiet suburban streets which portrayed a combination of southern charm and western informality. Then, abandoning the freeway, we took country roads to the historic town of Guthrie, 30 miles north of Oklahoma City.

Guthrie had been earmarked in 1911 to become the capitol of Oklahoma, but lost out, as the story goes, when a group of oil barons confiscated the State Seal in the middle of the night and absconded with it to an Oklahoma City hotel - and that is why the state capitol is in Oklahoma City and not Guthrie. What was to have been the state capitol building in Guthrie is now one of the largest and most beautiful Scottish Rite Temples in the world.

We explored the town, enjoying the many examples of pre-statehood architecture - beautifully preserved buildings in the downtown area, many of which are now antique shops. This charming town boasts the Oklahoma Territorial Museum and the Carnegie Library, where the territorial governors were inaugurated and official statehood ceremonies took place.

Back in Oklahoma City, we viewed the Capitol and state buildings before returning to the hotel.

That evening's reception gave us an opportunity to meet many of the other award winners. These people were the

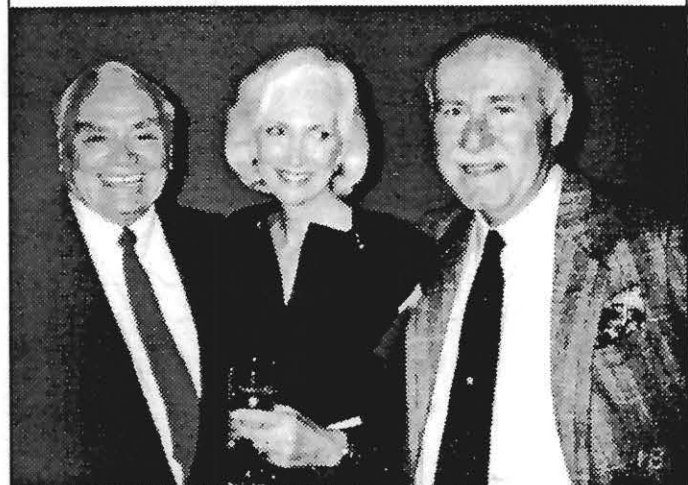
\* \* \* \* \*



Julie Greene and Jack Elam



Jack chats with Albert Marrin at Friday night's cocktail party!



L-R Ernest Borgnine, Julie Greene, Dennis Greene



(R) Byron Price - Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cowboy Hall of Fame with a fellow director.



(R) Dana Sullivant, N.C.H.F. Public Relations Director  
(L) Julie McMullen P.R. assistant.

honorees in such categories as Best Western Book (fiction and non-fiction), Best Poetry, Short Story, Music, etc., as well as

those in film and television categories. We also had a chance to visit with many of the Directors of the Hall's Board of Trustees, and we were pleased to be able to meet Dana Sullivant and her assistant, Julie McMullen, both of whom we had spoken to several times on the phone, as they were responsible for putting this whole event together.

Naturally, we made as many heretofore "uninformed" people as possible aware of the story of Texas Jack Omohundro!

\* \* \* \* \*

Saturday was to be a busy day for us, culminating with the Awards Ceremony Banquet. After breakfast with Jack and Jane, we were all taken to the Hall of Fame for a special private tour of the facility. This was to be our first visit there, and we found it to be most impressive.

In addition to temporary exhibits, the museum is comprised of seven uniquely different sections:

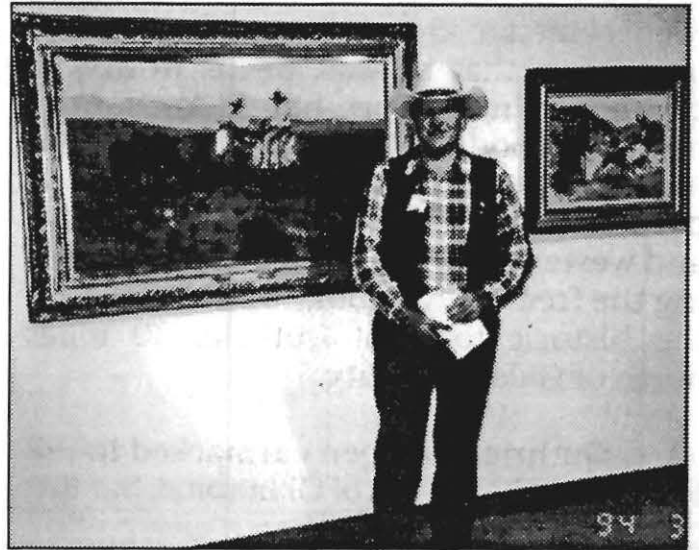


Hall of Historic and Contemporary Art

**THE HISTORIC AND CONTEMPORARY WESTERN ART** area contains a collection of major works by noted western artists including, among many others, Charles Russell and Frederic Remington. Exquisite paintings and sculptures, like Remington's

**BUFFALO SIGNAL** and Russell's **RED MAN'S WIRELESS** from the Joel McCrea collection are housed along with the Taos Collection, which contains artifacts and paintings representative of the influential Taos school of art.

Each year since 1973, the National Academy of Western Art (NAWA) auction and exhibit takes place in the gallery following this procedure: Top contemporary



Our Docentguide, Jim Riley  
Western Art Gallery

western artists from all over America are invited to display and offer their works for sale. Private collectors come from around the world to buy the art that appeals to them. The artists put their price on their work, and interested buyers drop their names into a sealed box. One name is chosen at random, and that person becomes the lucky purchaser.

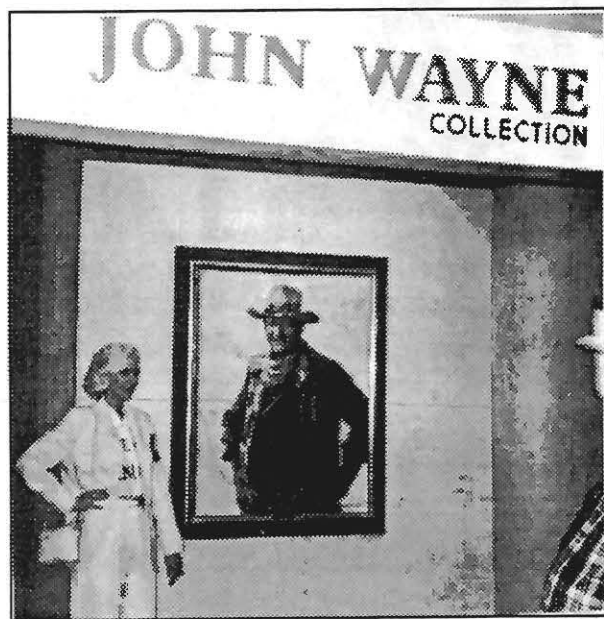
**FOUNDER'S HALL** is a 1,600 square foot room containing the bronze busts of more than fifty of the museum's early founders. A large plaque on the north wall lists the names of the inductees into the museum's Hall of Great Westerners. It contains more than 200 great men and women whose lives epitomize the greatness of the American West. The awards this year were accepted by the descen-

dants of Anne Burnett Tandy, the Hall's first female Board of Trustees member, and Levi Strauss, inventor of blue jeans.

**RODEO HALL OF FAME** honors outstanding cowboy and cowgirl competitors and rodeo's great producers and promoters.

**END OF THE TRAIL** is housed in the Payne-Kirkpatrick Memorial Wing. It is the magnificent eighteen-foot sculpture created for the Panama International Exposition of 1915 in San Francisco by James Earle Frazer, who also designed the Buffalo nickel.

**THE WEST OF YESTERDAY** is a gallery especially enjoyed by children (of all ages). The Concord stagecoach stands ready by the Overland Stage office. There is a sheepherder's wagon from Montana and an authentic sod house. The Silver Dollar Saloon, livery stable and U.S. Marshall's office are on the boardwalk among other Old West establishments.



John Wayne's Portrait hangs in his Gallery

**JOHN WAYNE GALLERY.** Actor John Wayne was among the first board of trustee members of the National Cowboy

Hall of Fame. He subsequently donated his priceless Hopi kachina doll collection, pieces from his private oriental art collection as well as guns, saddles and other memorabilia from his illustrious film career to the museum. The gallery features a striking portrait of the Duke by noted painter Everett Raymond Kinstler.

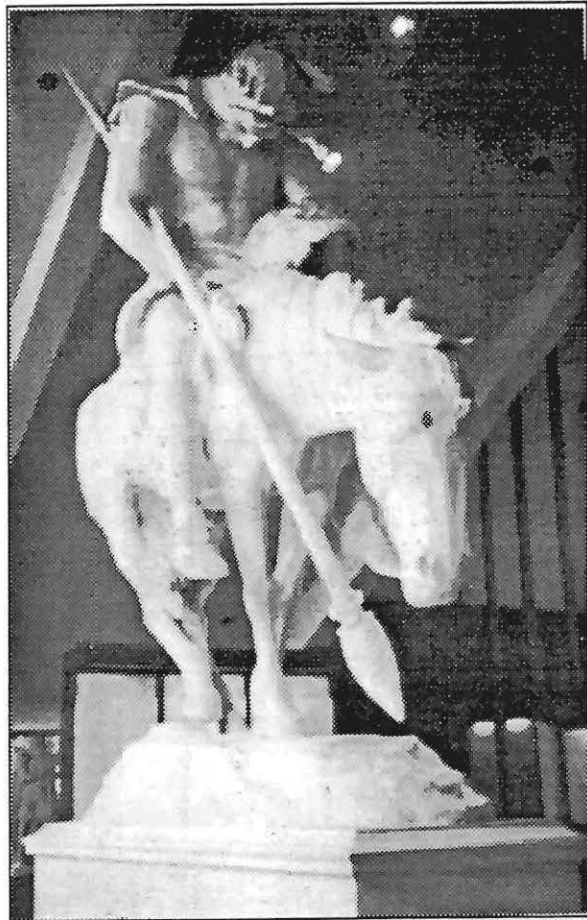


Portrait of Walter Brennan hangs in the Hall of Great Western Performers.

**THE GARDENS.** Outside the museum a flagstone walk through the gardens and grounds of the Hall leads to the gravesite of Tornado, the infamous rodeo bull. There are several sculptures on the grounds including a bronze statue of Buffalo Bill Cody, symbolizing the western spirit. Joel McCrea, who portrayed Cody on the screen, was the inspiration for this statue by sculptor Leonard McMurray.

\* \* \* \* \*

We were told that at the time of our visit to the museum, only ten percent of the exhibits were on display. Most of the treasures were in storage. This is because the Hall of Fame is undergoing a \$21 million building expansion.



"END OF THE TRAIL"  
Sculpture

size will be increased threefold and will include a beautiful new entry foyer and visitors' center where Fraser's END OF THE TRAIL sculpture will be relocated to provide a striking first impression for guests.

There will be a 70,000 square foot multi-purpose complex with a state-of-the-art special events center and banquet hall with a 1,200 seat capacity. This area will be the home of five of the world's largest western landscape paintings by one of America's foremost artists, Wilson Hurley. The first of these sixteen foot high paintings depicting the Pacific Coast is completed, and hangs in the temporary banquet hall where our Award ceremony took place. The other four scenes, yet to be completed, will be of the Sandy Mountain Range in New Mexico, the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley in Utah and Yellowstone Falls.

"A Western Vision for the Future" is the official title of the campaign, and it will carry the museum into the 21st century. The construction, which is evident everywhere, will continue into 1995, and will culminate in a truly impressive monument to western culture. The museum's



Jack Elam poses in front of Portrait of James Arness - Star of Long Running t.v. series "GUNSMOKE." (Elam performed in 24 episodes).



**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!**

We would appreciate knowing how you feel about the newsletters that you have been receiving. Do they contain information that you find interesting? Or not? Do you have any suggestions or contributions? If so, we welcome them, and we need them!

**Texas Jack Association, Inc.**

C/O Peggy Greene, 18329 Loxahatchee River Rd.  
Jupiter, FL 33458

There will be a West Wing totaling almost 60,000 square feet (approximately the size of the entire existing structure). This will be the home of temporary and permanent exhibits.

Finally, the existing structure will be completely renovated and the curatorial,

library and archival facilities will be expanded, along with the creation of an orientation theater and an art teaching studio. Our docent guide on the tour, Jim Riley told us that the National Cowboy Hall of Fame expects to be the "Smithsonian of the West", and from what we saw, I'm sure that's just what they'll become.

\* \* \* \* \*

Saturday afternoon, we were taken to Remington Park, Oklahoma City's modern and beautiful racetrack, which features world-class racing. We didn't do much betting on the horses, but we certainly enjoyed being pampered in V.I.P. suites where we were served a scrumptious buffet luncheon while overlooking the races below.

\* \* \* \* \*

The much anticipated evening's activities commenced with a cocktail party where we were able to again meet and visit with honorees, M.C.'s and Hall directors and staff, as well as other guests. We were thrilled when we found other

Omohundros at the function! They were Bruce Omohundro, a veterinarian from Ada, OK, and Bruce's sister Ruth Ann Omohundro Cross, who lives in Altus, OK. Bruce and Ruth Ann were accompanied by Bruce's wife and their cousin, Jim Hunter. Bruce and Ruth Ann are descendants of Texas Jack's younger brother, Richard.

We were very pleased to find that our "new-found kin" were seated at our banquet table, as were Albert and Yvette Marrin, from New York City. Albert was there to accept an award for his book COWBOYS, INDIANS AND GUNFIGHTERS.

\* \* \* \* \*

The history and purpose of the Awards is best explained by the following which was printed in our program:

"The 33rd annual Western Heritage Awards celebration is an event that commemorates the rich heritage of the American West, as preserved through western literature, music and film.

Established in 1960 by the Board of Trustees of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Western Heritage Awards program encourages excellence and accuracy in recounting the history and legends of the West. The Wrangler, originally a bronze replica of THE NIGHT HERDER by Charles M. Russell, is awarded annually to the principal creators of the winning entries. The winners now receive a contemporary version of the Wrangler, designed by John D. Free, an Oklahoma sculptor and a member of the National Academy of Western Art.

In 1961, the first Wrangler Awards were presented at the Skirvin Tower Hotel, with Dale Robertson as Master of Ceremonies. Among the winners was the motion picture, THE ALAMO, starring John Wayne, with Dimitri Tiomkin winning the

**"THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT"**  
A NON-PROFIT, TAX DEDUCTIBLE CORPORATION  
THE TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION, INC.  
A Non-Profit  
Tax-Deductible Corporation

**OFFICERS**

Malvern H. Omohundro, Jr., Richmond, VA ..... Chairman  
Kitty VanLew Pelkan, Seattle, WA ..... President  
Edna N. Nees, Scottsville, VA ..... Vice-President/Secretary  
R.C. Omohundro, Jr., Fork Union, VA ..... Treasurer  
Peggy Greene, Jupiter, FL ..... SCOUT Editor  
Rick Brown, Watsonville, CA ..... SCOUT Editor  
Jack H. Omohundro Jr., Crowley, LA ..... Director  
\* Frank R. Sullivan, Springfield, IL ..... Founder  
\* Nellie Snyder Yost, North Platte, NE ..... Historical Advisor

**HONORARY MEMBERS**

Mrs. Henry R. Coe ..... Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, WY.  
The Earl of Dunraven VII ..... Grandnephew of the Earl of Dunraven IV (who authored THE GREAT DIVIDE, HUNTING IN THE YELLOWSTONE, and CANADIAN NIGHTS), County Limerick Ireland.  
Dr. Paul Fees ..... Curator, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, WY  
\* Mr. Fred H. Garlow ..... Grandson of William F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody, Cody, WY  
The Knight of Glin ..... Great-grandson of the Earl of Dunraven IV, County Limerick, Ireland  
\* Mr. Herschel C. Logan ..... Author of BUCKSKIN AND SATIN (Photography of Texas Jack) Santa Ana CA  
\* Mrs. Nellie Snyder Yost ..... Author of BUFFALO BILL, THE CALL OF THE RANGE, NO TIME ON MY HANDS, and MEDICINE LODGE, North Platte, NE

\* Biography

Wrangler for his musical score for THE ALAMO.

The program continues to attract an evergrowing roster of entries that portray the high principles, spirit and individual achievements promoted by the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.



Jack Omohundro with entertainer-vocalist Lynn Anderson

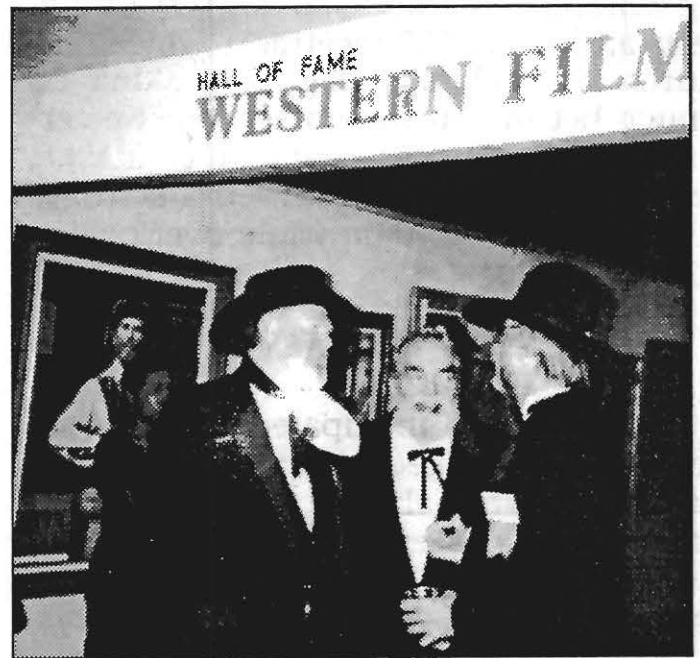
Among the writers, actors, producers, directors and composers who have won Wranglers during the past three decades are John Wayne, James Stewart, John Ford, Hugh O'Brian, Elmer Bernstein, Sidney Pollack, N. Scott Momaday, Louis L'Amour, James Michener, Jack Palance, Clint Eastwood and Kevin Costner. Other winners may not wear the mantle of international stardom, but they are still distinguished by the stellar quality of their work.

As part of the Western Heritage Awards program, the Hall of Fame also awards Wranglers, or other forms of recognition, to organizations or individuals who have made outstanding national contributions to our western heritage, or whose contributions lie outside the established categories for the awards program.

Individuals who were influential in shaping the life-style and development of

the West are recognized with induction into the Hall of Great Westerners, and their names are displayed in the museum.

The Hall of Great Western Performers honors film and television personalities whose portrayals have enabled the actual and mythological legends of the Old West. Portraits of these performers, commissioned by the Hall and painted by major American artists, hang in a special gallery.



Award Recipients chat in Hall of Western Film during cocktail party.

The National Cowboy Hall of Fame is poised to become a living memorial to the indomitable spirit of Westerners past, present and future and will become a true monument to the cherished values the West embodies to all Americans."

\* \* \* \* \*

By way of description, we found the awards ceremony to be reminiscent of the Academy Awards with which we are all familiar. John Ritter, as M.C. introduced the "presenters" (these special hosts were Ernest Borgnine, Barry Corbin, Steve Ford and Hugh O'Brien). They in turn intro-

duced the honorees who proceeded up to the stage to accept their award.



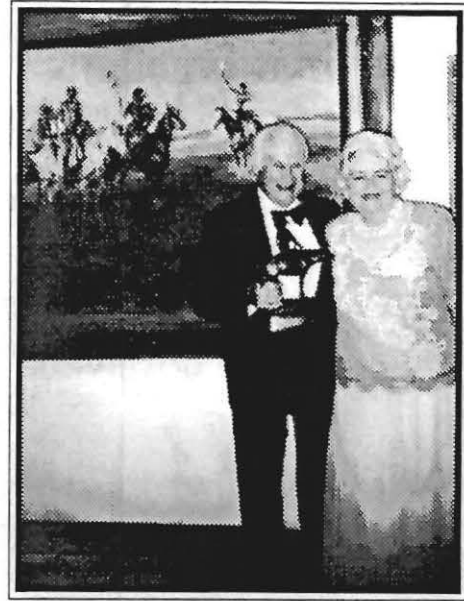
Julie, Dennis and Jack on stage accepting the Wrangler for Texas Jack

Before each award presentation, there was a brief large-screen video profile of the honoree or his/her work.

We all felt that the story of Texas Jack was well documented. The portrayal was able (with accompanying still shots of him which we had submitted to the Hall) to highlight his life extremely well within the few minutes allotted for it. The emphasis, of course was on his stage career, as that was the reason for his induction into the Hall of Fame, but his early life and the years that he worked as a cowboy and as a scout were well covered. It was a very professional presentation.

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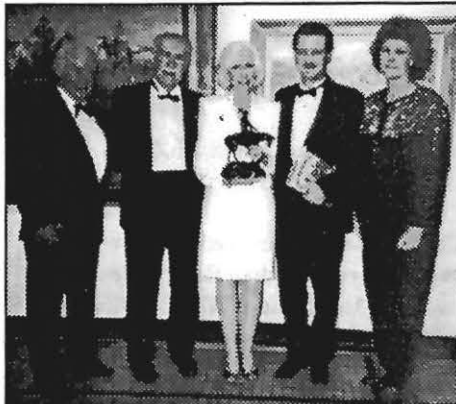
This was an occasion of which all Omohundros and Association members can be very proud. We have all known that



Jack Omohundro (holding Wrangler) with his wife Jane.

John B. (Texas Jack) Omohundro has not received the recognition he deserves, and we have all hoped and worked toward rectifying this situation. Indeed that is the main reason why the Texas Jack Association was formed.

Many people have given selflessly of their time and efforts and money to help make this happen, and we all deserve a pat on the back for our efforts. But the BIGGEST pat of all.....for without his special efforts, it surely wouldn't have occurred.....goes to Jack Omohundro from Crowley, LA. He certainly is deserving of our most sincere THANKS! For of all the honors that could be bestowed upon Texas Jack, this is the most prestigious and important. From here, there's nowhere to go but up!



L-R -  
Jack Omohundro,  
Dennis Greene,  
Julie Greene,  
Dr. Bruce Omohundro,  
Ruth Ann Omohundro  
Cross with Wrangler  
Award.

Jack, Dennis and I, all three, went up to accept the Wrangler for Texas Jack Omohundro. I can tell you, we were one proud threesome!

*Julie Greene!*

# BEHIND THE BOOK

## THE STORY OF HOW EDNA NEES CAME TO WRITE AN OMOHUNDRO GENEALOGY

Information provided by Edna Nees.



Edna & John Nees

John Nees had no brothers or sisters. He used to say that he didn't have any family. He knew he had cousins but he only knew a few of them and didn't know where most of them lived. As a boy, John's father Carl had lived in Nashville, Tennessee with his uncles O.C., James, Moten, and Wood Omohundro, and worked for them. Carl kept in touch and visited their families until he died in 1950. After that John lost touch with the Nashville families. He used to wonder aloud about what had happened to his uncles' families and that's how Edna Nees got involved in tracking down her husband's family. She started in earnest ten years ago and ended up last year publishing a genealogy entitled JOHN BURWELL OMOHUNDRO'S DESCENDENTS.

Edna started her search for John Burwell Omohundro's children with M.H. Jr., Tom, Dick and Virginia Omohundro as she knew where to find them. M.H. Jr. told her about the Texas Jack Association and

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## CONDOLENCES

\*To the families and friends of...

Lynda O. Thomas who died January 1994 in Safford, AZ. She was the aunt of Dr. William H. Foster, Jr. of Sherman, TX. His children are Judith Salmon, Nancy McGraw, Evan Foster and William H. Foster, III.

Eleanor Omohundro Siegfried formerly of the Barracks, Fluvanna County, VA She died on April 8, 1993. She is survived by her husband J. William Siegfried, five nieces and four nephews.

Spencer Clabo, son of Maggie Sloan Clabo and Hubert Clabo, who died October 6, 1993

McNeil Marshall who died on October 18, 1993. He is survived by his wife Virginia, daughter Mary Jane Hicks, son William Marshall, six grandchildren, and two nephews.

George Omohundro of Whispering Pines, NC. who died October 1993.

Judith F. Salmon who died on February 23, 1994. in Bogota, Columbia. She is survived by her husband William G. Salmon. She was the granddaughter of Bess Omohundro Foster.

John S. Nees who died on May 3, 1994 in a tractor accident on his farm in Albemarle Co., VA. He is survived by his wife Edna Arline Napier Nees, daughters Edna Marie Banton and Mary Sharon Golladay, grandchildren Meghan Banton, Jessica Golladay, and Joshua Golladay. John was very active in his community and in the Texas Jack Association. We will all miss him very much.

ROUND-UP IN LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS!!



THE 1994 Round-up will be held July 20-23 in Lowell. Our itinerary is as follows:

Wednesday, July 20th...Arrival at the Sheraton Inn, Lowell. .  
Registration and Reception from 7:00pm until ?

Thursday, July 21st....Easy walking foot tour of historic Lowell  
including trolley ride and museum stops. 9:00am  
to 1:30pm.

Arranged lunch at historic Old Worthen House.  
1:30pm.

Free time. Options include a trip into Boston,  
whale watching, the brewery exhibit, and a  
concert under the stars among many others!  
From 3:00pm on.

Friday, July 22nd.....Bus tour of the Billerica homesite, Lexington  
and Concord (site of Revolutionary War action),  
Walden Pond, and Alcott House. Lunch will be  
available in Lexington at noon. From 9:00am to  
4:00pm.

Saturday, July 23rd....Ceremony at Josephine Morlacchi's gravesite.  
10:00am to 12:00pm.

Business Meeting. 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Banquet. 6:00pm.

Sunday, July 24th.....Departure.

Tickets are \$65 per person and include all the bus tours and museum  
admissions, lunch on Thursday and the Banquet on Saturday night. Please  
order tickets by June 20th.

Rooms have been reserved at the Sheraton Inn, Lowell at a special  
discount rate of \$62/night. Contact the hotel desk at (508) 452-1200  
to make reservations. Airline reservations should be made to fly into  
Logan airport in Boston. Transportation to Lowell is available by a  
shuttle that runs continuously to the Sheraton. Car rentals are also  
available. Babysitting, if needed, can be arranged through the hotel  
upon arrival.

Cont. from pg. 12

John and Edna attended the 1988 convention in Richmond, Virginia where they met Jack Omohundro Jr., great grandson of O. C. Omohundro. They also met more of John's cousins from Malvern H. Omohundro Sr.'s family. Edna had grown up next to Elizabeth "Bettie" Omohundro's family and knew some of her grandchildren. So now Edna had located M. H. Sr., Bettie, and O.C.'s families. But there were still more families to find.

In 1988 Edna started helping with the membership for the T.J.A. and researched each member's name to see if she could make any connections to John Burwell's line. She did additional research in Fluvanna and Louisa counties, The State Archives and the Historical Society in Richmond, Virginia. In the process she discovered that she is related to Catherine Baker Omohundro. Edna also sent out questionnaires. One was answered by William Downing Omohundro in Wyoming. Edna received a reply from William's aunt Alybel Omohundro Johnson from Tennessee who had been visiting William at the time he received the questionnaire. Not only did she fill out his questionnaire, she filled out one for herself. She's the granddaughter of Moten P. Omohundro and Edna says "John just beamed when he learned I had now found Uncle Moten's family".

Alybel led Edna to Virginia Gooch Watson (a great granddaughter of O.C.) who is a genealogist that could help with the Tennessee families. Edna sent out many more questionnaires, some returned and many answered. Edna, Ginny and Alybel had many telephone conversations and letters back and forth. Alybel had the picture of John Burwell Omohundro with four of his sons. She generously sent Edna a copy. Ginny helped with pictures and with Uncle Jim's and Uncle Wood's families. To Edna it was like working on a puzzle, once she found one piece she wanted to find another.

The next piece was finding the family of Arabella Omohundro Wolhbruck, John's grandmother. Paul Fees, curator of the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody, Wyoming, gave Harvey Willard, who was also in Cody, Edna's address. Harvey is a great grandchild of Arabella and he and John reunited at the Texas Jack Round-up in San Antonio. They were very glad to see each other and spent much time together. Harvey was very helpful with more information and many pictures.

Edna found another cousin, Carlyle Crane, John's aunt Gertrude's son, in New Jersey. He was very pleased to be found and anxious to help with information. After not hearing back from him for several weeks, Edna called again only to learn that Carlyle had died six days after Edna's first call. Carlyle had told his daughter Cindy of Edna's call and she was also very glad to hear from Edna and very helpful. From her, Edna learned the whereabouts of Cindy's aunt Dorothy Ward. John and Dorothy had not seen each other in forty years. Since then, John and Edna have been to visit her and talk with her often.

Edna found more cousins, John's aunt Marie's son Charles Burgess whom they hadn't seen in thirty years, and many of her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her grandchildren, John Ford Burgess and David Walton Burgess and their wives and great granddaughter Rebecca came from Massachusetts and West Virginia to visit John and Edna. John had not seen Ford or David for forty four years. Chester Burgess III and his family have also been to visit. Says Edna, "They were all very helpful and shared pictures".

After the San Antonio Round-Up, John and Edna went to Nashville to see Alybel and Ginny who had located all of the uncles' homes. About thirty cousins came to meet John and Edna and tour the Omohundro places. Edna says that "We enjoyed our visit very much and felt as though we had known each other all our lives. John was delighted to meet so many of his cousins".

By now the puzzle was getting bigger and clearer. Not only had Edna found John's long-lost cousins, she had also located and traced all of John Burwell Omohundro's descendants up to 1993. The time was right to share the information and pictures with everyone. After countless hours of hard work, Edna published her genealogy. She says, "I hope that each of you will enjoy the book as much as I enjoyed writing it. "Thanks to each of you for helping me find John's lost family."

Editor's Note: John Nees died on May 3, 1994. He was extremely proud of his wife's accomplishments and happy to know all his family again. Edna is grateful she completed her work before his death.



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# A VISIT TO LOWELL

(part II)

Irish immigrants who, after 1845, gradually took the place of Yankee women in Lowell's labor force.

Though Lowell's textile industry continued to expand during the second half of the 19th century, the city lost its dominant position in New England. Geographical and technological factors combined to push the city out of its leading role. As steam power came into general use, freeing mills from the need to locate near rivers, Lowell's inland location on the falls - a crucial advantage in the past - now hindered its growth. Coastal towns, more accessible to coastal shipping and sea-borne coal, enjoyed significant transportation advantages over Lowell.

Lowell, Massachusetts was America's first great industrial city. The innovative textile technology developed by Francis Cabot Lowell and a unique work force of young Yankee farm women combined to make the Lowell mills widely successful both as manufacturing centers and as real estate developments. From the labor standpoint, however, there was much to be desired. Long hours, back-breaking work, and unhealthy working conditions together with cuts in take-home pay caused by growing inventories and falling prices led to labor unrest. The mill workers in Lowell, joined by other mill workers across New England, organized the Lowell Female Labor Reform Association (LFLRA) in the 1840's. They petitioned for higher wages, better working conditions, and shorter working hours. Although the state finally enacted a 10-hour law in 1874, other developments in the mills quietly transformed both work and the work millforce. Responding to competition from new mills-often financed with profits earned in Lowell-the agents required workers to operate additional looms and spindles. They also stepped up the machines' speed: each woman now found herself trying to keep up with more machines, each one running faster. Most despised of the agents' moves was the "premium" system, in which they paid bonuses to overseers who got their workers to produce more cloth than normal.

As some Yankee women responded to these conditions by demanding reduced hours of labor, others voted silently with their feet, leaving the mills. A growing migration from the region to the Midwest left fewer native-born women to replace them on the factory floor. Mill agents were forced to look elsewhere for workers. They found their new labor supply in the

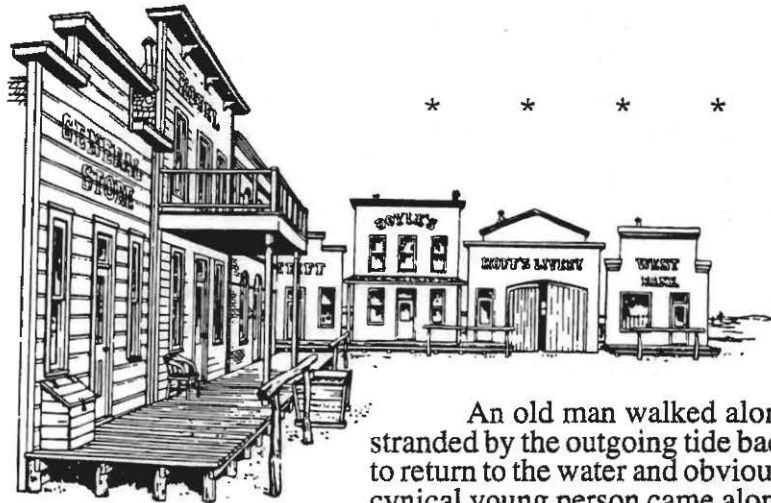
Lowell nevertheless benefited from the new steam technology. After the Civil War, as they approached the limits of the Merrimack River's harnessable power, Lowell firms steadily added steam engines to supplement waterpower. Initially they used steam as a backup for water; later they relied on steam as the primary power source to turn the thousands of new spindles added yearly. Along with the shift to steam power came increasing reliance on immigrant labor. From mid-century on, successive immigrant groups beginning with the Irish, took up the lower-paying jobs. After the Irish came French Canadians in the 1860's and 1870's and Greek, Polish and other nationalities in the 1890's and early 1900's. The onetime Yankee mill town was transformed into a diverse immigrant city.

Partly due to the organization of the immigrant mill workers into effective bargaining unions, Lowell mill owners, who knew as early as the 1890's that their mills were aging and becoming increasingly noncompetitive, took their operations elsewhere or used the profits from their Lowell mills to finance modern textile mills in the South. As early as WWI Lowell firms began to fail and by the mid-1930's only a few mills were still in operation. Despite periods of high mill employment

and relative prosperity, Lowell never regained its place as a textile giant. In the 1950's the Boott and Merrimack mills closed and in the 1960's a group of Lowell citizens saw the need for redevelopment based on Lowell's architecture and cultural heritage. Lowell's rebirth in the late 1970's and early 1980's included the arrival of Wang Laboratories, a leader in computers, and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. The city's new pride recalls the spirit of the mill town's boom days. After decades of decline, the population is rising. A collection of public art lends interest to the

urban scene. Visitors have a multitude of choices: tours of the park, exhibits, festivals, concerts, demonstrations of old skills, a chance to stroll along historic streets. If there is any place to observe and enjoy the beginnings and the development of American industrialization, it is here in Lowell.

Excerpts taken from *Lowell, The Story of an Industrial City*. Produced by the Division of Publications National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.



Something to share:

*Rick Brown*

An old man walked along the beach throwing starfish which had been stranded by the outgoing tide back into the ocean. There were hundreds of them to return to the water and obviously he couldn't begin to accomplish that task. A cynical young person came along and asked in a most arrogant manner, "What possible difference do you think you can make for all those starfish?" The old man stooped down, picked up another and, as he tossed it into the water, he replied in a quiet, confident tone, "For this one it makes all the difference in the world."

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