

## ***ABOUT US***

The Prescott Corral was founded in 1962 as an affiliate of Westerners International, an organization dedicated to the preservation of the real history of the American West. Its original membership list, which included such well-known residents as Budge Ruffner, Gail Gardner, Danny Freeman, Bruce Fee and George Phippen, comprised a virtual "Who's Who" of local historians, a tradition that is continued today by the 200 members of the 2008 Prescott Corral.

The Prescott Corral has a well-earned reputation for excellence with respect to the Western history programs it presents to its members and guests during its monthly dinner meetings at the historic St. Michael Hotel and for the annual Western History Symposium it co-sponsors in the fall of each year with the Sharlot Hall Museum.

## ***ABOUT THE AUTHORS***

A professor emeritus of theatre, **Tom Collins** lives with his wife in Prescott, Arizona, where he works as a volunteer with the Sharlot Hall Museum and conducts research on the theatre in the Arizona Territory. He has published five articles in the "Days Past" series of the Prescott Courier and a book entitled *Stage-Struck Settlers in the Sun-Kissed Land: The Amateur Theatre in Territorial Prescott, 1868-1903*. Collins taught at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville for 31 years and co-founded the Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival.

**Roland Michaelis** retired to Prescott in 2001 following a career in the physical sciences. A graduate of UCLA, with a degree in astronomy, he worked in a variety of increasingly important technical positions at several observatories and laboratories including Lick Observatory, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, California Academy of Sciences, and NASA. Since his retirement he has pursued his interests in lapidary, gems and minerals, astronomy, and his life-long enthusiasm for the desert southwest and history of the old west.

**Robert L. Spude, Ph.D.**, gave his first talk to the Prescott Westerners in 1975. In the 1980s helped organize the Anchorage, Alaska, Corral, was sheriff of the Colorado Corral, Denver, 1992-3, and now is active with the Santa Fe posse. Bob is History Program Manager for the National Park Service regional office based in Santa Fe. He co-authored a history of New Mexico forthcoming from the University of Oklahoma Press, and continues his interest in the history of old Yavapai with his essay on the Walker party.

**Al Bates** served as the Prescott Corral Sheriff in 1998, and is a frequent speaker on a variety of subjects on Arizona territorial history. His book *Jack Swilling; Arizona's Most Lied about Pioneer* was published in 2008.