

# TERRITORIAL TIMES

Prescott Arizona Corral  
of Westerners International

A publication of the Prescott Corral of Westerners International  
November 2010, Volume 4, Number 1

## CONTENTS

- 1 Dick Bowerman—*Gail Gardner: A Man Worth Remembering.*
- Gail Gardner—*In His Own Words,*  
(Transcribed and edited by Russ Sherwin.)
- 7 *Origins of Smoki and the Snake Dance*
- 13 *The Smoki Temperance Lecture*
- 14 *Tying the Knots in the Devil's Tail*
- 16 *From a Poem to a Painting*
- 18 *Rounding up Wild Cattle*
- 22 *1912 Trip to Orabi by Mule and Horse*
- 24 Cynthia Gardner—*His Daughter Remembers Gail Gardner.*

## Introduction

This is a very special edition of the *Territorial Times*. Instead of including a number of articles on a variety of topics, this issue concentrates on the life work of a single man: Prescott's legendary "poet lariat" Gail I. Gardner—mostly in his own words.

In some ways this effort had its beginnings in 2008 when the Prescott Corral presented a program at the Prescott Elks Theater celebrating Gail and his accomplishments, as part of that year's Arizona History Convention. The program consisted of a PowerPoint presentation about Gail's life by Dick Bowerman, followed by a performance by Gail's grandson Gail Steiger of several of Gail's poems set to music.

The next step came when Prescott Corral Historian Bruce Fee rummaged through his storage area to find a number of audiotapes (recorded between 1968 and 1986) of Gail telling stories of an earlier Prescott. Bruce then enlisted Russ Sherwin who transcribed the tapes into MS Word documents.

When Bruce presented this treasure to the editorial board of the *Territorial Times* there was instant agreement that we should make this material available by presenting it—in Gail's own words—in this edition of the *Times*. We decided to introduce Gail with a summary of his life written by Dick Bowerman; followed by Gail's stories that Russ pieced together and edited from the tapes; and winding up with a remembrance of Gail by his daughter, Cynthia.

Gail Gardner first published some of his poetry in 1935 in a small book titled *Orejana Bull, For Cowboys Only*. He very thoughtfully included a glossary of terms that non-cowboys could reference. It was republished in 1950 and 1963. An expanded version of *Orejana Bull* was published in 1987 by the Sharlot Hall Museum. Additional poems were included and Warren Miller of the museum added a foreword and some explanatory notes. Copies are available at the museum gift shop.

The Territorial Times Editorial Board would like to thank the Gardner/Steiger and Phippen families for their assistance in preparing this publication.