



MARCH, 1948

LOS ANGELES CORRAL

MARCH, 1948



ROSCOE P. CONKLING

## THE BUTTERFIELD ROUTE

The first meeting of the new year was well attended—all probably anxious to pay their dues. The Butterfield Overland Mail was the theme of the evening, and the Posse was privileged to hear the outstanding authority on the subject, Mr. Roscoe P. Conkling, discuss the mail route, the stations and personalities with special emphasis on the California route. Mr. Conkling's interest in the Butterfield was stimulated early in life by his grandfather who designed the famous "Celerity" coach and he spent more than twenty years of work and some 50,000 miles of travel in 13 states interviewing the oldest inhabitants in many communities. His "on the spot" investigations were supplemented by extensive research in the libraries and historical societies throughout the country.

His paper included among numerous interesting items, the fact that our Corral was located within a stones throw of the old Los Angeles station which stood on a 100 x 150 foot lot south of First and Spring Streets on land now occupied by the Los Angeles Times Building. This property was sold to Butterfield for \$600.00.

(Continued on page 3)

## FEBRUARY ROUND-UP HEARS GOLD RUSH STORY IN IMPRESSIVE MEETING

California's Gold Rush period, its swift expansion and its decline, its social and economic and political problems, and historians of the period were discussed at the February Round-Up when Professor Rodman Paul, California Institute of Technology, addressed the Westerners in the Redwood House.

"I think it's quite important," said Prof. Paul, "to see if you can set aside one period of time in California's history and say, 'That is the Gold Rush.'"

During the progress of his talk, Prof. Paul referred to statistical data concerning California's gold production in the period when it ballooned from a quarter-million dollars in 1848 to 81 million dollars in 1851.

"The gold rush period," he said, "was a time of wide spread optimism . . . a time of abnormal conditions . . . when the comforts of life were non-existent or too high in price . . . it's a time of confusion, when all sorts of people are coming into a new area . . . a time of disorganized society."

Prof. Paul traced the course of the Gold Rush period by various methods, one of which was a chart showing the average daily earnings of the gold miners drop from "20 in 1848 to \$3 in 1854 when California was stepping out of the Gold Rush era. He also described the various methods of mining, which began with easy processing under which any man, without great investment, could begin his operations, to the complex and heavily financed quartz mining which sounded the decline of small operators.

Most people, who participated in the Gold Rush, he said, were adventurous, and undoubtedly dissatisfied with their former way of life.

He pointed to his statistical data to show when the Gold Rush produced the greatest yields. When this yield petered out, he said, it meant the era had ended.

(Continued on page 3)

## THE 1948 PROGRAM

The happy thought came to your Sheriff that a little enlightenment on the program for this year might be of interest to all and sundry. This thought was so conveyed to your Deputy Sheriff, who somehow not yet quite clear to him found he was Program Chairman. With the startling realization of this and what was expected, your urbane and erubescant servant started to work as a number of members all to soon discovered.

The response to the questionnaires filled in at the last meeting was very gratifying as well as helpful and useful, and already an attempt is being made to obtain speakers for several of the suggested subjects.

For the first time this list sees the light of day, and it is hoped will stand throughout the year. With the exception of course for the months of September and October and if your Deputy does not turn up with some member from the ranks, or otherwise a speaker obtained by a member, these months might well find him on "leave of absence." The "Brass" is always happy to receive, and open for suggestions.

Hang on to your seats here we go —

January 15 . . . . . Roscoe P. Conkling  
"Butterfield Route to California"

February 19 . . . . . Charles Yale  
(Rodman Paul)  
"California Gold"

March 18 . . . . . Carl Dentzel  
"Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo  
U. S. Acquires the Southwest"

April 15 . . . . . Frank Schilling  
"Al Sieber, Chief of Apache Scouts"

May 20 . . . . . Dwight Franklin  
"Gun Toting in the Old West"

June 17 . . . . . H. H. Olson  
"Gold in Placerita Canyon and other facts"

July 15 . . . . . Ernest Sutton  
"The Sun Clan of the Hopi Indians"

August 19 . . . . . Jack Sahr  
"Shady Ladies of the West"

September 16 . . . . .

October 21 . . . . .

November 18 . . . . . J. Gregg Layne  
"Fremont—some little known facts"

December 16 . . . . . Dr. Homer K. Morgan  
"Charles Lummis"

## FEBRUARY MEETING

A total of 32 Westerners and their guests reported for the February 19 Round-Up at the Redwood House, when Prof. Rodman Paul, California Institute of Technology, spoke on "California Gold." A new innovation of this meeting was launched by Sheriff Paul Galleher when he called for each man present to stand up and introduce himself.

The BRAND BOOKS were passed out at the conclusion of the meeting. Another new book, A LIFE WORTH LIVING, was greatly in evidence during the program, and Ernest Sutton and his pen were kept busy applying the author's autograph.

When three new members were introduced at the last Round-Up, they were introduced in the following sequence, with the following effects:

### (1) Michael Harrison—(Associate Member)

It was explained by Colonel C. B. Benton that Harrison had spent 10 years with the U. S. Park Service, and 15½ years in the Indian Service, with the Pueblo Indians and the Indians of Northern California. Following Harrison's presentation, there was applause, and then came the next introduction:

### (2) Marvin Miller—(Regular Member)

Colonel Benton explained that Miller was a "... real Westerner, born in the Dakotas, and one of the best typographers in Southern California."

Miller then stood up in acknowledgment of the introduction and the applause. Just as he got to his feet, Los Angeles experienced the earth tremor which shook houses clear from the coast at Santa Monica to East Los Angeles. After the excitement, Col. Benton made the final introduction:

### (3) Paul Bailey—(Regular Member)

Bailey is a well-known author. He has written such well-known books as, "For This My Glory," "The Grey Saint," "Jacob Hamblin" (Soon to be released), and others.

## THREE MISSES MEANS CANCELLED MEMBERSHIP

A reminder was sounded at the February 19 Westerners Round-Up that three consecutive absences from regular meetings without valid reasons will automatically place any member on an inactive status. Reason for this ruling is that there is a long waiting list of associate members who desire to join the Westerners and actively participate in the functions of the organization.

## SAY YOUR PRAYERS AND GET PREPARED TO BE "SHOT" THURSDAY

Come to the April 15 meeting in your store bought Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes. That's because you're going to be "shot," by a camera.

It is planned to run each man's picture in an early issue of *THE BRANDING IRON*. This will help others to connect his name and his face.

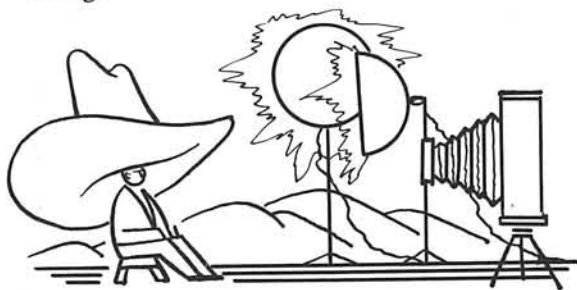
Plans for taking the pictures, as announced by the committee, are as follows:

(1) A charming, sweet, scenic, rustic, attractive background scene, typical of the old West, has been painted by Clarence Ellsworth.

(2) A stool will be placed in front of this background scene, and each Westerner will sit on the stool to be photographed.

(3) Lights will be set in place, and camera readied. It then becomes a matter of mass production. A man sits—the lights flash—shutters click—and someone says, "Next."

It will help if all Westerners will arrive a few minutes early. A full program has been planned, and the picture-taking will be done before eating.



## THE BUTTERFIELD ROUTE

(Continued from page 1)

On it in 1860 the company erected the largest and best equipped station on the route. Los Angeles was not included on the original itinerary of the Overland Mail. It was not until December 1858 that Los Angeles was officially made a time-table station.

One of the features of his presentation was a large map over 7 feet in height on which he had indicated all of the California stations. He carefully traced the route from Yuma to San Francisco stopping here and there to point out historical bits of information not generally known. Later during the discussion period, quite lively at times, Conkling debunked some of the heresay stories concerning station locations.

Conkling also brought out that his studies had convinced him that the stage line was a major factor in linking California to the Union. It was a fine event and started our new year with a feeling that membership in this organization was worthwhile.

## THIS PUBLICATION WILL SUBSTITUTE FOR FORMER MONTHLY BRAND BOOK

This is the first issue of *THE BRANDING IRON*. It was decided that this type of a monthly publication would be more desirable than the former monthly chapter of the Brand Book. There are several reasons why the change was made: Economy was one; Production was another. A third reason was duplication.

Under the new method, all Westerners still will receive a monthly publication but it will contain only condensations of the greater and more complete papers which will be published in the yearly *BRAND BOOK*.

## THE GOLD RUSH

(Continued from page 1)

### STATISTICAL DATE

#### 1. Comparative population:

	CALIFORNIA	OREGON
1848.....	14,000	10,000-12,000
1850.....	112,000	13,294
1860.....	379,994	52,465
1870.....	560,247	90,923
1940.....	6,907,387	1,089,684

#### 2. California gold: total seasonal product for the whole state, and average earnings per miner:

SEASON	TOTAL PRODUCT	AVERAGE EARNINGS
1848.....	\$ 245,301	\$20
1848-49....	10,151,360	16 (1849)
1849-50....	41,273,106	10 (1850)
1850-51....	75,938,232	8 (1851)
1851-52....	81,294,700	6 (1852)
1852-53....	67,613,487	5
1854-55....	55,485,395	Stepping out of Gold era.
1858-59....	45,846,599	
1861-62....	38,854,668	
1864-65....	17,930,858	
1874-75....	16,876,009	
1884-85....	12,661,044	
1894-95....	15,334,317	

Following the decline of the Gold Rush, California's economy gradually shifted to that of agriculture. As early as 1858, 23,000 people left California and sailed for Fraser River, British Columbia, and the discovery of the Comstock Lode attracted another great number of the people who chased the Golden Rainbow, permitting California to re-adjust more quickly and easily to the new economy of farming.

## DOWN THE BOOK TRAIL

By GLEN DAWSON

Spring publications by the Westerners already amount to an impressive shelf. First there is *The Westerners Brand Book, Los Angeles Corral*, 1947 containing more than 70 illustrations, bibliography, index, superbly produced by Homer H. Boelter. The end sheets are reproduced from an original print in the collection of Robert J. Woods. The Denver Posse has just issued their second volume 1946 *Brand Book*, and also a reprint of the very scarce 1945 *Brand Book*. The original Chicago group has also issued their second volume, so there are now five volumes of *Brand Books* with more in prospect. Each volume contains some twelve papers read at meetings, important contributions to the history, folklore and art of the west.

Orders for the Los Angeles Brand Book should go to Robert J. Woods, 320 South Manhattan Place, Los Angeles 5, California. The address for the Denver books is: The Westerners, Denver Posse, Room 306, State Museum Building, Denver 2, Colorado. The Chicago address is Mr. Burleigh Withers, 400 North Michigan, Chicago 11, Illinois.

The largest book yet published by Sheriff emeritus H. E. Britzman is *A Life Worth Living* by Ernest V. Sutton. It is a realistically written account of early days in Ohio, Dakota, Minnesota and California. The Clarence Ellsworth end papers reproduced in color are very fine.

Another book Westerners will want to read and own is *Wyoming Cattle Trails* by John K. Rollinson, edited by E. A. Brininstool. This contains a wealth of material on the migration of Oregon-raised herds to Mid-Western Markets. There are two editions, a trade edition and a special limited edition.

Sheriff Paul Galleher who originated "Down the Book Trail" has been long busy with a major project, the monumental *Butterfield Overland Mail 1857-1869*, by Roscoe P. Conkling and Margaret B. Conkling. The first volume and the atlas of maps and pictures are now ready and the second volume of text is expected very shortly.

Finally, mention should be made of the new book by our friend Lee Shippey, *It's an Old California Custom*.



## THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL OF 1864-1867

The Wilmington Journal, Los Angeles County, California, published from 1864 to 1867 was one of Southern California's more interesting newspapers, but only the incomplete file in the Bancroft Library, (University of California at Berkeley) is recorded in any public institution. William B. Rice in his book *The Los Angeles Star 1851-1864* tells how the Democratic *Star* was suspended, the last issue being October 1, 1864. The printing materials were removed to Wilmington where a new *Star* of administration politics is supposed to have been published. The name was soon changed to the *Wilmington Journal*.

The earliest issue in the Bancroft file is Volume I, No. 9 for January 14, which means that the first issue was probably November 11, 1864.

Phineas Banning was the owner of the *Journal* and the paper helped elect him to the legislature in 1865, however, the paper itself states "published every Saturday by A. A. Polhamus and Co." Harris Newmark refers to A. A. Polhamus as the workshop engineer in 1869 of the Los Angeles and San Pedro Railroad.

The *Journal* was very full in its news compared to most rural California newspapers of the period. The April 22, 1865 issue was printed with black borders as a memorial to the assassinated Abraham Lincoln. The May 6th issue reprints the funeral discourse of Rev. Elias Birdsall which was originally printed in the *Los Angeles News* of April 29th. There are two series of articles, neither of which are complete in the Bancroft file, one entitled, "Reminiscences of a Californian" and the other "Three Months in Lower California," by Gamma. This latter series started December 30, 1865 and continued at least until March 31, 1866.

Other especially interesting articles are an oil report (February 10, 1866) and a trip to Owens Valley, (May 26, 1866).

The *Journal* did not complete its third yearly volume. June 22, 1867 is the announcement of discontinuation with a recommendation of the *Los Angeles Weekly Republican*. However, a June 29 issue appeared published by the Journal Association. The last number in the Bancroft file is Volume III Number 42 for August 31, 1867. This issue and Number 41 were printed on very poor paper in contrast to the good quality of the rest of the file.

If any pamphlets were printed at Wilmington during this period, none are known to have survived.

GLEN DAWSON

# IN MEMORIAM

BY P. L. BONEBRAKE



JOHN K. ROLLINSON

JOHN K. ROLLINSON was born at Gowanda, New York and passed away at Pasadena, California, March 2nd, 1948 at the age of 63 years.

He had been very ill for about a week, having suffered a severe heart attack. Mrs. Rollinson called an ambulance and he was hurried to the Huntington Hospital where he was put under an oxygen tent. He was very low for a few days and then started to get better.

He expressed a desire to see his new book "*Wyoming Cattle Trails*" and Mrs. Rollinson wired his publishers who at once, sent him a copy by air-mail. It made him very happy.

On the afternoon of his passing, his nurse sat by his bed reading it to him. She asked him if he wished to sleep. He answered "No, read some more." There was a gasp, a shudder and he passed into a coma from which he never emerged.

He came to Wyoming when a boy and remained there the greater part of his life. He was, by nature, an out-door man, a lover of the wide-open spaces, the purple mountains, the green

valleys and the rocky canyons and was more at home on a horse than anywhere else. He naturally turned to the cattle business and for many years was active in that line of work, later becoming a United States Ranger and had a part in enforcing law and order in that then wild country.

His health failing, he came to California a few years ago and, until very lately, returned to Wyoming each summer, there to hunt up his old friends of the cow country, eat at the chuck wagon, sleep in his bed roll, and ride a good horse.

The last two years he was unable to make the trip, much to his regret. However, his disappointment was largely compensated by the pleasure he got out of his association with Los Angeles Corral of The Westerners and also the Chuck-Wagon Trailers, of which he was an officer. He was much interested in both organizations. I was frequently his guest at the gatherings of the westerners and I know how he looked forward to them. There he could meet and talk to the members, men who were interested in the history of the West as he was. He got much pleasure out of the meetings which meant more to him than any of us realized and added much to his life. He held in high esteem every "Westerner" and was proud to call them his friends.

He wrote "*Pony Trails in Wyoming*," more or less a biography of his own life. It is interesting, entertaining, and instructive. Written in the simple language of the cow-country, it gives a true picture of life as he found it at that time. His latest book, "*Wyoming Cattle Trails*" is just off the press. It is a splendid piece of work and gives the history of the cow-business from the beginning in Wyoming and is interspersed with stories of the old cow-men, many of whom are still living, who trailed cattle into that country in early days. It is extremely well written and is an authentic history of the livestock industry in that State.

Jack was a man tolerant of the weaknesses of his fellow men and quick to praise their virtues. I never knew a man who so loved to do things for his friends. Personally, I have been the recipient of many favors at his hands. He did much to make the way a little smoother and life just a little pleasanter for me. I have suffered a distinct personal loss in his passing.

He was clean strain. A man to ride the river with any time and we shall miss him.

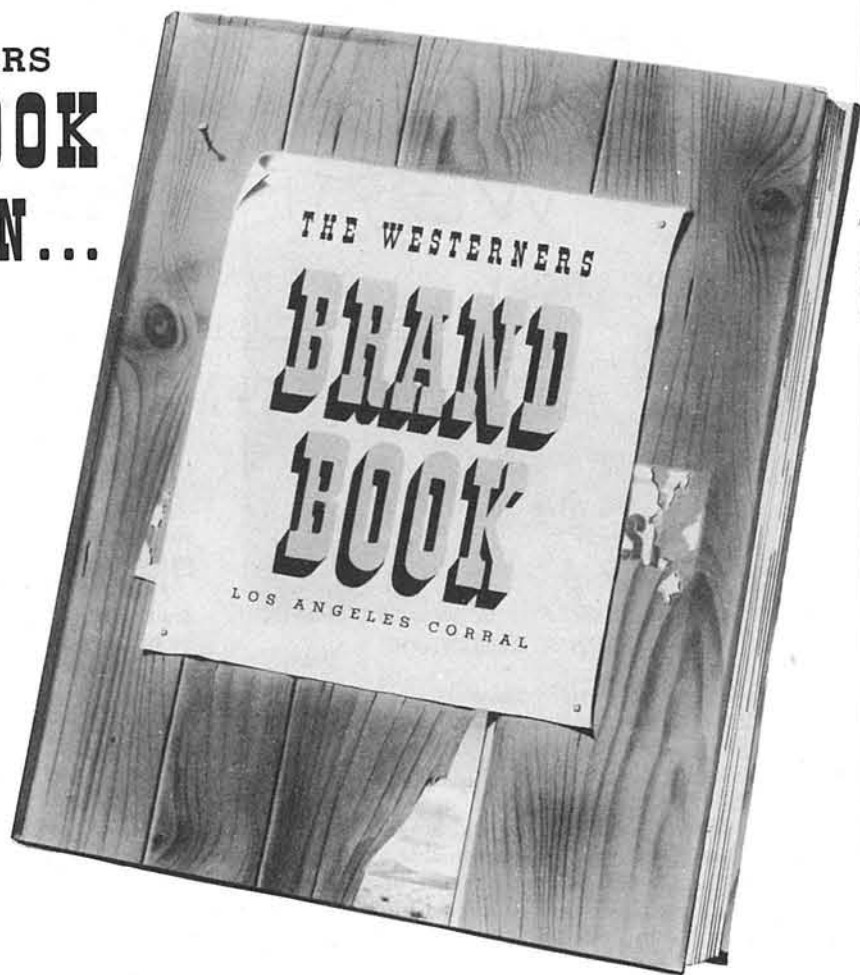
Jack has gone up the Long Trail, but he did not travel it alone. With him went our thoughts, our hearts and our love. We know he found that Trail broad and smooth and that it led among tall trees and luscious grasses and by crystal streams. When he reached The Great Round-up and stood before the Range Boss with the rest of the dogies, when he checked his brand and marks in the Big Brand Book, I know the Range Boss looked on him with a kindly eye, classed and cut him into the herd that is to graze throughout eternity on the Great Range; that range where grass is always long and green, where the water is pure and sweet, where there are shady trees and the birds sing, where the sun shines all day and the southern breezes blow soft and cool, where there is no pain, no suffering, no grief, no sorrow, where all is peace and happiness forever.

He is the first of us to go up the Big Trail, but soon we too must make that sad journey and when we reach the end, worn, weary, and perhaps a little frightened, Jack will be standing at the Big Gate to bid us welcome to the Home Range, in the Far Beyond.

Hasta La Vista, Jack. Go with God.

# THE WESTERNERS BRAND BOOK 1947 EDITION...

Price **\$6.00**  
net prepaid



☆ ☆ EXTENSIVELY illustrated with reproductions of drawings and paintings of western artists including Clarence Ellsworth, Charles M. Russell, John Goodman, F. Firfires, Charles Bodmer, et al., original photographs and portraits, colored end sheets of Los Angeles 1857, special colored dust jacket designed by Martin Johnson, bibliography of related western material by Robert J. Woods and index. Beautifully printed in offset lithography by Homer H. Boelter and bound by William Weber. Quarto, pp. 176, gold leaf stamped cloth and leather.

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REGULAR MONTHLY  
**ROUND-UP**  
LOS ANGELES CORRAL  
**WESTERNERS**

THURSDAY      APRIL 15, 1948      6:00 P.M.  
REDWOOD HOUSE

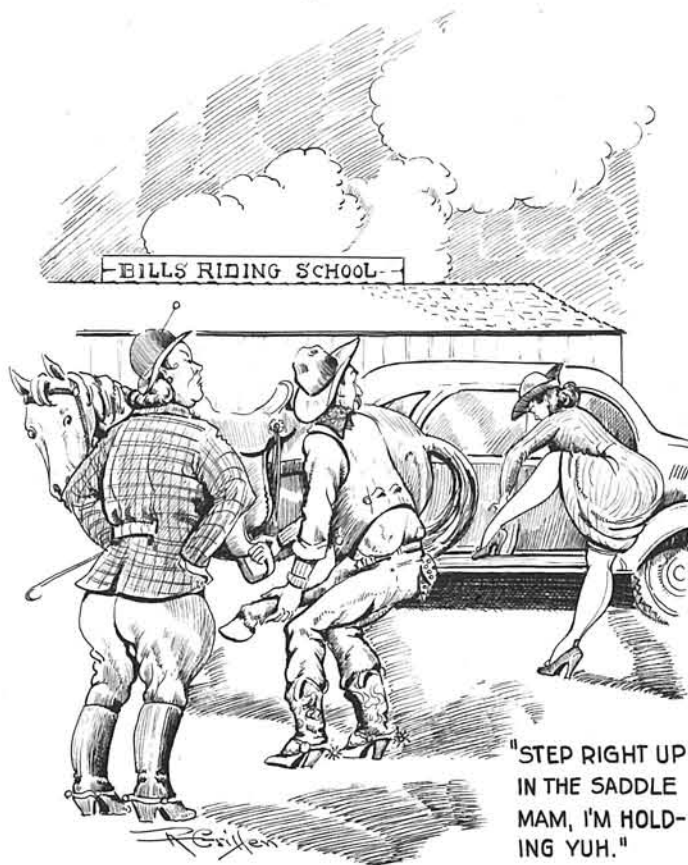
◻ ◻ ◻ ◻ ◻ ◻    **PROGRAMME**    ◻ ◻ ◻ ◻ ◻ ◻

PAPER TO BE READ BY    **FRANK SHILLING**  
ENTITLED    **AL SIEBER, CHIEF OF APACHE SCOUTS**

**NOTICE :**

You will receive a regular post card by separate mail delivery. It will be necessary to mail in this card, as usual, specifying whether you will be present for this meeting.

It is planned to photograph each member so that his picture can be published in THE BRANDING IRON. If possible, come at least 15 minutes early.



# SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS

Write below the topics which you would like to be included in our future Westerner programs. In making your suggestions, remember that they will be a part of the yearly BRAND BOOK. Fill in your name, then mail this to

..... Street,  
Los Angeles, California

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME.....TELEPHONE.....

STREET NO.....ZONE....CITY.....

## THE WESTERNERS

Colonel C. B. BENTON  
8228 Sunset Boulevard  
Hollywood 46, California

