



APRIL, 1948

LOS ANGELES CORRAL

APRIL, 1948

AN OPEN LETTER

To:

Corresponding Members
The Westerners
Los Angeles Corral

Dear Friend:

This is the second issue of THE BRANDING IRON, our monthly Westerners publication.

Now that it has become an actuality, we want you to know that we have a special reason for bringing you the BRANDING IRON. It is intended to draw you closer to our work and our activities here in Los Angeles. Through our monthly issues of BRANDING IRON we can give you some of the harvest of our work.

This also is to be your publication. It is to be devoted to your own contributions.

Each Corresponding Member, then, is cordially invited to send in material now for publication.

It will permit a greater exchange of ideas. It will help each Westerner, whether he is local or corresponding, to become better acquainted. It will be possible to bring to light much valuable material which should be presented to others.

Here are some of the things BRANDING IRON wants to publish for you:

(1) Personal news about yourself. We want your picture. If you have more than one picture, send several. We will use what we can, and return it after printing it in BRANDING IRON.

(2) Send us articles, personal anecdotes, stories that have been handed down to you, and similar material. If it is a clipping or other copyrighted material, be sure and tell us the source so we can obtain reprint permission.

(3) Historical photographs are wanted. We can use etchings in black and white, and pictures of value done by our famous early Western artists.

What you send us need not necessarily concern yourself. It might be devoted to an area, or a community, or a friend. It will be carefully guarded, handled and insured. We will pay postage. It will be returned to you as quickly as possible.

In short, we want your ideas and your thoughts, your experiences and your lore. We want you to put them down on paper and send them to us. In that way, you won't be only on the "receiving" end of our work. You will be giving to us, just as we try to give to you.

(THIS LETTER CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

PLAN THREE OUTDOOR SUMMER ROUND-UPS

Three possible out-door meetings are scheduled for the Los Angeles Corral this summer. Plans now in the formative stage, according to John Goodman, call for open-air Round-Ups in June, July and August.

H. H. Olson leads off in the June meeting with a paper, "In And Around Old Placerita

(Continued on page 2)

PLATES USED ON BRAND BOOK ORDERED OBLITERATED

No reprints will be made of the 1947 Brand Book and, according to a decision written into the minutes of the last executive session, no future issues will be reproduced.

All plates used in production of the Brand Book have been ordered obliterated. Only 597 copies were printed, and 304 of these already have been delivered.

OPEN LETTER CONTINUED

Remember, this is our publication, together. By working in concert, we will enrich each other in this exchange of fact, fancy and information.

Finally, let us assure you that the material is wanted now. We can start using it immediately. It is our hope you will start the flow to going this week. We also hope you will send us many, many contributions.

Send it either to the Corral address, or to the address shown below.

Very truly yours,
DAN GANN, *Editor*
THE BRANDING IRON
830 North La Brea, Hollywood 38, Calif.

1947 BRAND BOOK IS SET FOR PRICE RAISE

A progressive advance in price has been planned for the 1947 Brand Book, and this same policy is scheduled to apply to the Brand Book for this year, following action taken by officers of the Los Angeles Corral at a special meeting April 5. The last 97 copies are the ones tagged for boost in price.

Pre-publication price for the book was set at five dollars, and after publication date the price automatically raised to six dollars. The new advance has not yet been definitely established, but reports say it will be at least \$7.50.

There were 597 copies produced. Of this figure, 304 already have been sold. As soon as 500 copies have been delivered, the remaining 97 will begin retailing at the new price.

SUMMER ROUND-UPS

(Continued from page 1)

Canyon," and the Westerners are scheduled to be sitting right there in the canyon when the paper is read. The scene actually will be at Placeritos Ranch, in Placerita Canyon (see map, page 7), four miles north of Los Angeles and one mile east of Newhall. This Round-Up will be June 26.

Second proposed outdoor meeting will be at the Ernest Sutton domicile. Sutton personally will deliver the paper, "The Sun Clan of The Hopi Indians," and the feed bag will be applied by caterers. Round-Up date is July 15.

Site for the third suggested outdoor meeting has not been definitely named. The paper originally scheduled for delivery in August was titled, "Shady Ladies of the West," a bibliography of pimps and prostitutes, but this topic may be abandoned for fear of offending their numerous descendants (that S—O—B— who almost ran you down WAS one after all!) living today.



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THE BRANDING IRON
830 North La Brea
Hollywood 38, California
Dan Gann, *Editor*

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WILL TAKE ORDERS FOR 1948 BRAND BOOK AT PRE-PUBLICATION PRICE

Orders for the 1948 Brand Book will be accepted starting with the next meeting, and Bob Woods, the man on the book sales committee has announced that applications taken now will go at the pre-publication price of six dollars. This price reflects a raise in production costs. Pre-publication orders last year went for five dollars.

Committeemen reported that in order to maintain the same top standards in material and appearance, the one dollar increase was necessary.

In giving pre-publication orders now, the committee pointed out, two purposes are served:

(1) The book committee will have a fund with which it can operate in production of the book. This fund, last year, was voluntarily established by a small group of guarantors.

(2) The Westerners can buy at the more advantageous price, instead of waiting for the higher after-publication price.

A MAN WAS A MAN AND A WOMAN WAS A WOMAN AND SOMEONE PROFITED THEREBY

(Ed's Note: The cradle where progress is born also usually is accompanied by the "crib." The following are excerpts taken from a letter received here last week from the town of Niland, California. It was written by Los Angeles Westerner Jack Sahr who is a student of certain sociological aspects (also see page 8) of the Old West.)

You must realize that the early West had a scarcity of women and such being the case, even though she was worn out in a crib joint, some old boy, fresh from the creeks or just arrived after a ten months trail drive—being at stud, and tired of looking cows in the tail, would think this worn-out crib gal was an angel from heaven, in fact, just right for marriage.

Most always the man, as all wild studs will, gathered his crib gal and moved over three or four states to where there was very little chance of her being known or recognized. They then, shoulder to shoulder, put up a shanty, gathered a few cattle and settled down to the business of raising cattle and kids. And Brother, you would be surprised to know what a good job they sometimes did.

One couple had a son who became governor of one of our largest western states, another had a son who became the owner of a now famous ranch, another whose daughter married a senator—later an ambassador and so on and on.

For instance—there was one madam who had quite a number of girls, who followed the laying of the rail westward, putting up a large tent at each new camp and supplying the pleasures of the dandy dancers. When the camp moved up, she moved up, and being quite brawny and well able to whip most men, she became quite famous. More than once, when pay day for the crews of men rolled around, and the money wasn't there, either because the railroad couldn't get there with it, or didn't have it, she paid the men herself. The men stood in line, she checked with the timekeeper and paid each one, using a trunk for a desk, doling it out of a carpet bag, getting a receipt from the timekeeper signed by the grade boss. She kept the railroad moving West. That made history, my friend, but you won't find it in the history books and you would be surprised to know who she married! Her money and railroad stock, plus railroad land created the basis for our most famous Eastern hotel. She died a very highly honored lady.

Then there was our own "Sacramento Sarah" who had a converted ship on the river during the gold rush, moving up the river as the boom strikes moved up. Her biggest trouble was keeping girls on this floating parlor house. It seems the miners also hung out the shingle "At Stud" just as soon as they struck pay dirt and quite often married these aquatic prostitutes. She

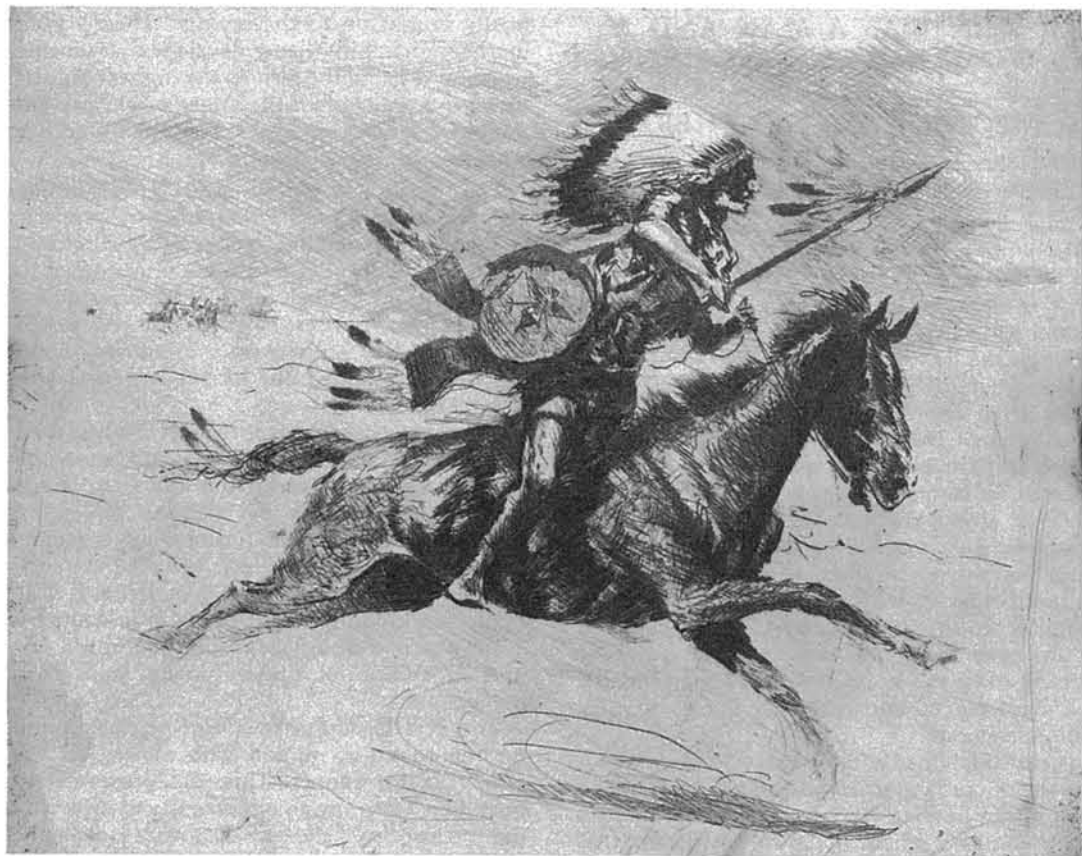
finally caught on to the saying "There's gold in them thar hills" and developed a scheme whereby she sold the girls to the highest bidder. Of course, quite often the miner would pay her double to take the gal back when he found out what he had, upon sobering up.

Yes, Sarah was quite a gal! It is said she dropped many a poor girl overboard, properly weighted for swimming, when said girl refused to do her bidding. Gold mad, she is known to have had and cashed in—in San Francisco—4240 lbs., not ounces, of gold. But you would be surprised to know who she married. From this union stemmed one of our largest steamship lines.

Then we have Bridget Mapes. When first heard of she was a wagon gal, following the round-ups and construction jobs in huge wagons very ornately painted and gilded, in which several girls did business in compartments walled off from each other. Two such wagons pulled up close to where the K T D outfit was holding a herd of cattle in southern Texas, each one driven by an old man, unhitched, spread out, opened up and were ready for business.

The K T D outfit had a huge negro cooking for the round-up wagon who invited all the girls over for supper. This, of course, suited them fine, affording an opportunity to look over the prospective clients. All went well—the cowboys visiting the girls as often as money, time and ambition permitted. Everybody seemed happy, contented and satisfied until several of the girls got to checking on Bridget and found she had been sneaking the gorilla like cook into her compartment, unknown to them or the cowboys, not once but several times during the evening. Finally, after the evening's business was over she kept him in her section for some reason or other.

Most of the girls, being from the South, didn't like the idea a little bit and knowing that if the cowboys got wise that the negro had even made one trip into that wagon there might be a lynching and perhaps some wagon burning, they decided to do something about it. Knowing Bridget as a devout Catholic the girls draped one of their number in a sheet and powdered her face quite heavy and then crawled up under Bridget's wagon and in low tones sang a religious hymn. Meanwhile the gal draped in the sheet knocked softly on Bridget's door. When Bridget opened the little peep hole the gal said in a low earnest voice, "I am the Virgin Mary. You have sinned and I have been sent to save you." Then the negro took a peep, jerked the door open and away he went through the brush and evidently didn't stop because nobody heard of him for several years when he showed up in San Antonio a negro preacher. As for Bridget, she stumbled out, disappeared.



CHARGING HAWK

Etching by EDWARD BOREIN

Charging Hawk was a famous Sioux warrior, and was personally known to the artist.

NATURE WAS HIS TEACHER

Edward Borein put into his work the treasures of his store house of information and observations taken over thirty years of living with Nature. Above all, he was accurate and authentic in the people and items which he portrayed. Borein had wandered from the Canadian border South through Mexico and down to Guatemala, all through the American plains and California.

During these travels, he made his sketches and drawings for his own amusement. When the day's work was done, and with the nightly drone of mens' voices about him as he worked, Borein would attempt to translate onto paper some one of the vivid impressions he had received that day. No doubt, many of these early drawings at some time or other were consigned to the camp fires that had furnished him the light with which he could work.

Edward Borein was born in San Leandro, California, in 1873. It was not until later in life that he began his etchings with a definite purpose. It was his desire to make some visual record of the manners, customs and workaday lives of the people and the era he had known.

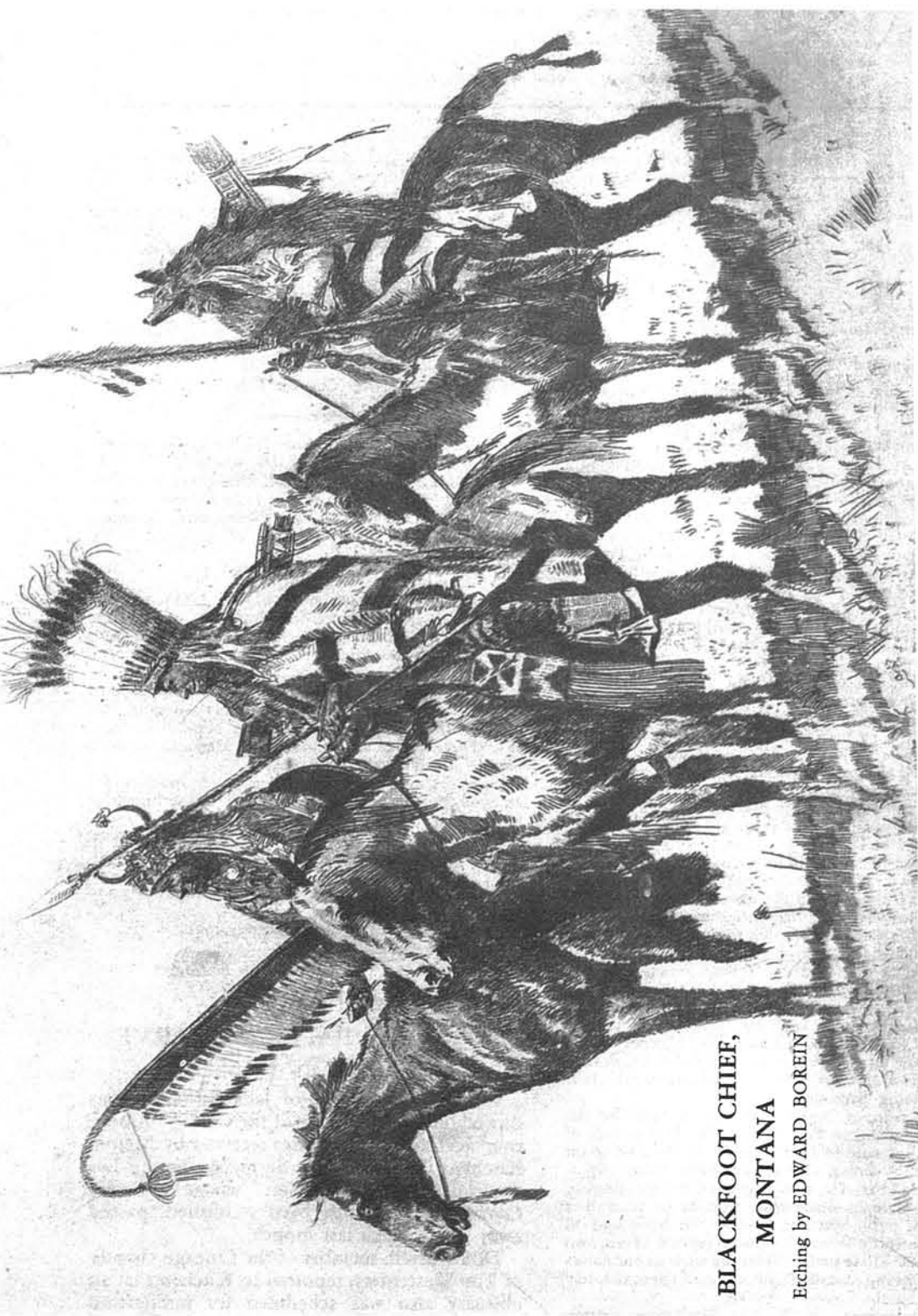
The undersigned knew the late Mr. Borein very well and I truly believe that history will record him "America's greatest Western etcher."

His work is of great historical value and above all—true and authentic.

Since the artist's passing up the Long Trail over a year ago, his work is becoming more valuable and scarce; however, there are still a number of his etchings available around Santa Barbara, Calif.

For most of the above information we are indebted to the late artist's widow, Mrs. Borein, a graceful, sweet, kindly and lovable woman residing in Santa Barbara in a comfortable pueblo style home overlooking the Pacific and where she graciously serves old and new friends a cup of tea when they stop to call.

—COL. C. B. BENTON



**BLACKFOOT CHIEF,
MONTANA**

Etching by EDWARD BOREIN

This is one of the etchings to come from the gifted hand of the late Edward Borein. The figure on the left is a Medicine Man, as indicated by his horned bonnet. The central figure is a Chief Warrior, distinguished by his feathered bonnet, and the figure on the right is the Chief Scout, with his head covered in wolf skins.

JUST OUT OF THE MAIL BAG

The best news is a letter from a friend. Here are two letters pulled out of the mail bags of a recent date. They are either from a friend, or the friend of a friend. BRANDING IRON wants to publish more. If you have one which should be printed, send it to us.

(Ed's Note: The following letter, from Herbert O. Brayer, Chairman, Publications Committee, Denver Chapter, is self explanatory, and is presented as news of what other Chapters are doing.)

To:

Merrell Kitchen
The Westerners
Los Angeles Chapter

Dear Mr. Kitchen:

It is not difficult to tell you what our program for 1948 in Denver Westerners will be, as we have a very active group of officers now headed by Sheriff Arthur Carhart. Don Bloch (U.S. Forest Service) has taken over the job of Round-Up Foreman and has completed a schedule of meetings for the entire year which bids fair to be the best we have ever had. So far, we have had a very fine paper on early medicine in the West . . . and at the February meeting a very interesting study on the fur trade since 1860 . . . At the March meeting Vaughn Mechau, feature editor of the Denver Post, is to deliver a paper on Osgood and Redstone Inn, a saga of the mining days. In April former Governor Carr has a splendid study he has been working on entitled, "Redlight Ladies of the Rockies." We expect a full house.

In May my own paper entitled, "When Dukes Went West," will be presented. This paper sets forth the story of British financing of the American cattle industry from 1870 to 1900. Other meetings planned include papers by William McLeod Z. Raine, Thomas Hornsby Ferril, Herbert Keller, Frank Dobie, etc. . . .

. . . As chairman of the publications committee, I can tell you of our real project for 1948, the publication of three and possibly four historical studies exclusive of the BRAND BOOK . . .

The books to be published are as follows:

(1) Diary of Moreton Frewen 1880-1884; the account of the founding of the first million dollar cattle ranch in the west by British entrepreneurs. The dukes and other lords and ladies walk through this story in a most astounding manner.

(2) Field book of General William Jackson Palmer. This volume contains the original letters of Palmer written while in command of the Kansas Pacific Railroad survey from 1867 to 1868. It in no way duplicates the well known Kansas Pacific report of the survey, and contains his personal record from Colorado through New Mexico, Arizona, and California. It is an outstanding historical "find."

(3) Colorado; a booklet written in 1868 by the eminent Englishman Frederick Boyle. This picture of Colorado was written at the height of the land grant promotion, by a man who was a famous author, diplomat, and soldier. He was employed by the English promoter, William Blackmore, who in an altercation ordered the publishers not to issue the book and to destroy the entire form with the exception of his own proof sheets. These proof sheets are now in our hands and we are going to issue this booklet of approximately 175 pages for the first time this year.

(4) A large study on William Blackmore, written from his original papers brought from England and involving the entire American west from 1863 until

his death in 1878. There is much of value in this study concerning California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado.

. . . Let me at this time, as I have already to Sheriff Galleher, express my warmest approval of your first BRAND BOOK. It is an excellent study and one very worthy of the men involved.

With sincere regards,

Cordially yours,

(Signed)

HERBERT O. BRAYER

(Denver Chapter THE WESTERNERS)

(Ed's Note: Ramon F. Adams, Dallas, Texas, author of COWBOY LINGO, WESTERN WORDS, CHUCK-WAGON TALES and numerous other works, visited the Los Angeles Corral last year. The following letter was received earlier this year by our Corresponding Secretary, Merrell Kitchen.)

Dear Mr. Kitchen:

Thank you for your letter of the 17th and congratulations on the success of your first year for the Westerners. I think you have a good man in your newly elected Sheriff and I wish your organization many more years of success.

By the way, when is your annual book supposed to come off the press? I am looking forward to it. Just received the Denver Posse's second book a few days ago. These books are going to be a real addition to history and Western Americana.

Your organization impressed me very much and I enjoyed my visit. There are certainly a fine bunch of fellows out in L. A.

I certainly would like to see a chapter organized here, but I simply do not have the time to do the work myself.

Thanking you for your letter, and with all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

RAMON F. ADAMS

CHICAGO PAPERS OBSERVE ROLLINSON PASSING

Notice of the death of Jack Rollinson was carried on the front page of the Chicago American, according to a letter received by Merrell Kitchen, Corresponding Secretary for the Los Angeles Corral. Rollinson, whose *Wyoming Cattle Trails* had just been published, passed away in Pasadena last month.

Don Russell, member of the Chicago chapter of The Westerners, reported to Kitchen that an obituary also was scheduled for publication there, and that the book was being excellently received.

SAME SHAPE AND SIZE SET FOR NEW BRAND BOOK

Plans for the next BRAND BOOK already are taking visible shape and policy matters of top importance already have been established, including general contents, price, and size and format. An outline of the book has been under formulation for months, and pre-publication price was set last week at six dollars.

Gregg Layne, chairman of the book committee, also said that it had been definitely decided to continue the same size and format. The last BRAND BOOK has received such applause for its general appearance, he explained, that the entire series probably will be continued in size and shape.

Setting of type on some papers already has started, and various committees already have the processing of material well under way.

RELATES HISTORY OF REPRINT VOLUMES

Karl Yost, Corresponding Secretary, Chicago chapter, delivered a short talk at the last round-up concerning reprints. He pointed out that reprint copies of precious volumes often go exceptionally high in price on their own merit as a collector's item, yet they make fine works available to greatly increased numbers of people.

Yost, attorney-at-law by profession and highly specialized collector of reprint volumes by avocation, gave an interesting dissertation on the history of a variety of different books. Many of his examples were books which have become so rare that they are beyond any purchase price, yet reprints of the books sold in the one-digit classification.

JUNE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR PLACERITOS RANCH

Westerners will hold their June Round-Up at Placeritos Ranch, in Placerita Canyon, near the town of Newhall. Officers last week set the meeting date for Saturday afternoon, June 26, and the corral gates will swing open at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

This is a departure from the regular schedule. Two other open-air meetings also are planned before fall.

Bert H. Olson will read a paper at this Round-Up, entitled, "In And Around Old Placerita Canyon."

Members will be mailed supplementary directions prior to the next meeting. Dinner will be at six o'clock.

Those who do not have transportation are being directed to contact the sheriff.

Placeritos Ranch is used by movie studios in production of Western films.

MAIN STREET OF PLACERITAS RANCH



Scene of thousands of fist fights and shooting frays. Almost every famous modern Westerner (of the screen) has ridden its sun baked streets, stalked his enemy over its well worn sidewalks or fought his way to freedom from its weathered buildings. Sheriff and the thief have settled with blazing gunfire the age-old issues between law and lawlessness. Stage coaches with their everpresent shotgun rider have careened wildly along its length only to come to a screeching stop to unload their passengers at the steps of the nearby hotel. Now the dust settles back to the blissful ground, and gone are the tumultuous shouts of the production crews. Into the atmosphere of the make-believe on June 26 will walk the scribes and the students and the realists, when the Los Angeles Westerners hold their regular Round-Up. The paper of the day will be read by Bert Olson, and it concerns the ground upon which the Westerners will walk: "In And Around Old Placerita Canyon."

DOWN THE BOOK TRAIL



Arthur Woodward has written several books and scores of articles on historical and archaeological subjects. His new book is *Lances at San Pascual*, a detailed account of the battle in San Diego County between the United States forces and the Californians in 1846. The California Historical Society previously published *A Doctor Comes to California*, *The Diary of John S. Griffin* which with Emory's official report are the two first hand accounts of the overland journey. Woodward has, from many obscure sources, reconstructed all phases of the battle. The book contains a Roster of Kearny's men which was not published in the *Quarterly* of the California Historical Society.

— ☆ —
Lances at San Pascual is Special Publication Number 22. Nearly all of the earlier numbers are now out of print and some such as Number 3, *James Clyman* are very valuable. I will be glad to give information to any member of the Westerners about the advantages of membership in the California Historical Society. The yearly dues of \$10.00 include a subscription to the *Quarterly*.

Another Westerner author is Paul Bailey who has written some eight books including one on Sam Brannan, the Mormon pioneer of San Francisco. Bailey's new book, *Jacob Hamblin Buckskin Apostle* has been selling very fast. Incidentally, Bailey printed and published his own book. For the first time there is available a full length biography of Hamblin, who was almost unique among his contemporaries in that he kept his word with the Indians. Hamblin was the first, after Escalante, to ford the Colorado at the Crossing of the Fathers. In 1858 he went to the Hopi villages. Later he was J. W. Powell's guide on his second Grand Canyon expedition.

— ☆ —
One of the most interesting works in progress is a Bibliography of Charles M. Russell by Karl Yost.

— ☆ —
If Homer Boelter continues to use this column in the *BRANDING IRON* I propose to give some information to Westerners on sources of western books. For example, Charles Yale has just issued his 21st catalogue. Included is a selection of

Western Americana. He will send you a copy without charge if you will mention this column. Address: Charles Yale, 971 Green Street, Pasadena, California.

— ☆ —
The Rounce and Coffin Club each year makes a selection of the best books produced in the west. Their 1948 catalogue is now available for 10 cents in stamps or coin from: H. Richard Archer, 2205 West Adams, Los Angeles, Calif.

— ☆ —
Material for mention in "Down the Book Trail" may be sent to Glen Dawson, 141 Anita Drive, Pasadena 2, California.

CARL DENTZEL READS PAPER ENTITLED, "TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO"

America with ambitions, yet an America with a sense of justice was the basis for a paper which was read at the April 15 Round-Up when Carl Dentzel presented his "Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo." Speaking before 38 Westerners and five guests, Dentzel briefly described preceeding events and the course of the campaign in Mexico, and then launched into the mechanics and the methods of establishing the treaty.

This paper, presented in full, will be one of the highlights of the 1948 *BRAND BOOK*.

In presenting his dissertation, Dentzel described the activity of foreign nations which still were hungrily poking into possibilities of conquest and colonization in the New World. His portrayal of the thoughts of American leaders at that time pointed out that while the young nation was aggressive, it also was watchful of the rights of other nations. Dentzel presented the writings and excerpts from speeches made before congress at that time, using these as illustrations that the national conscience was strong and vital.

This paper also related:

(1) Psychological factors present when Americans chose the site for the discussions of the treaty.

(2) Following the treaty, representatives of both nations have worked in concert, and the border has been unfortified and patrolled on a cooperative basis.

(3) Political maneuverings in the background in Washington, and unusual and unorthodox measures taken by American representative to obtain ratification of treaty.

In concluding his presentation, Dentzel quickly outlined succeeding events of the treaty, and illustrated the comparative importance of the period and how the conflict with Mexico conditioned the nation for strenuous events to come.