



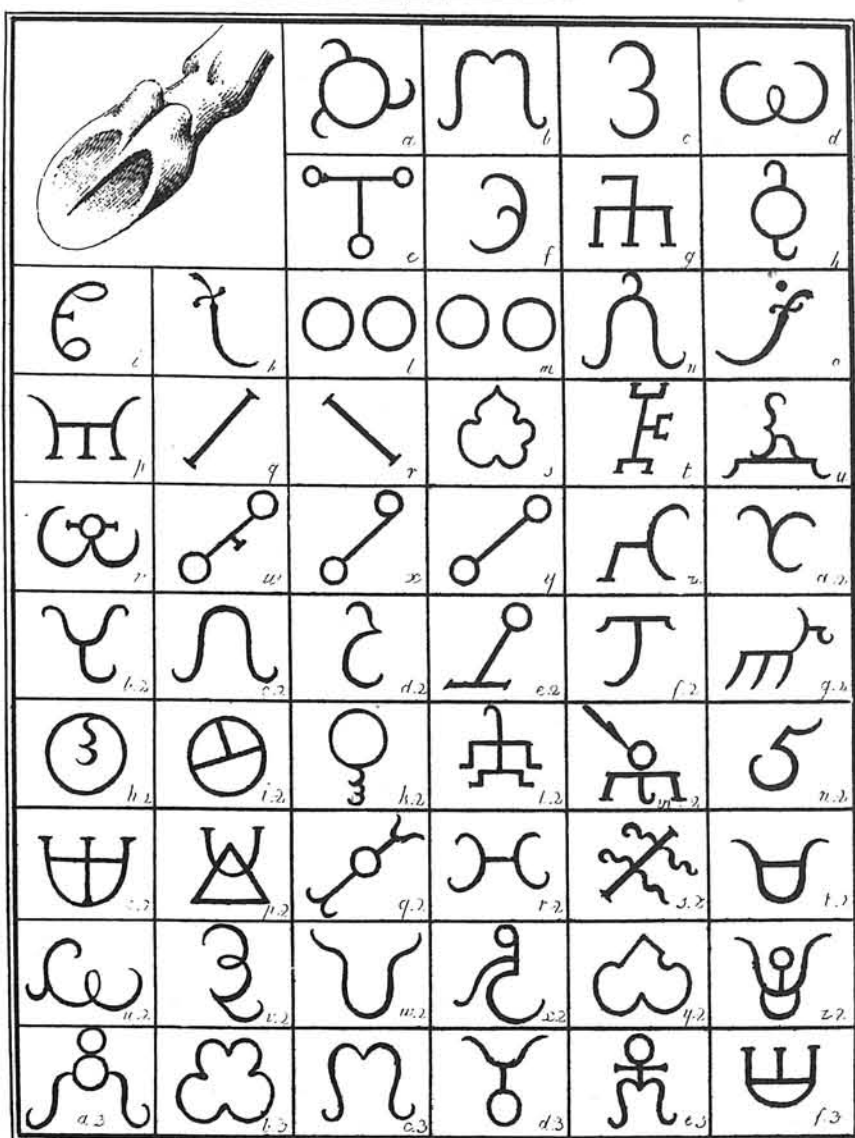
JUNE, 1953

LOS ANGELES CORRAL

PUBLICATION 20

RUSSIAN HORSE BRANDS

— see page two —



THE BRANDING IRON
OF THE LOS ANGELES CORRAL OF
THE WESTERNERS

* * *

Published Quarterly in
March, June, September and December

☆
Address Material for Publication to
The Roundup Foreman
DON MEADOWS

640 Terraine Avenue, Long Beach 14, Calif.

Corral Chips . . .

This issue of the Branding Iron is L. A. Corral publication number 20. Future Arm-chair Rangers who try to roundup all of the Corral publications are going to be a bit confused. The March issue of the BI was headed publication 17. That was a mistake. It should have been number 18. Number 17 was a Corral Keepsake, the *Denver Daily Gazette and Commercial Advertiser*, reprinted from a copy issued in 1869. Number 19 is another Keepsake, a Pacific coast account of Custer's Last Stand, sent out to members a few weeks ago. So this is publication number 20.

Westerners can be proud of the Custer Keepsake. It is evidence that meticulous book dealers can make mistakes too. In the Edward Eberstadt Americana Catalogue No. 132, p. 48, item 253, is listed a newspaper account of the Custer Disaster dated July 14, with the comment that it is probably the first Pacific Coast account of the battle. Keepsake 19 is a San Diego news report published on July 6. And San Diego was down deep in the Cow Country.

Some of the Westerners don't have a complete file of the L. A. Corral publications. There are a good many back issues of the Branding Iron and a few Keepsakes still available, so if you all will drop a line to your Roundup Foreman telling him what you don't have he will do the best he can to fill up your vacancies. The Corral file is kind of weak too. If any of you have an extra copy of the BI, Publication No. 2, March-April 1947, send it to the Registrar of Marks and Brands, Jim Gardiner. He needs it.

Ex-sheriff Carl Dentzel is a modest individual. He goes ahead and buys Sitting Bull's Autobiography, painted in earth colors on the liner of a U.S. cavalry blanket by the old Chief himself, and hangs it in the post office at Northridge, California. Time Magazine, May 4, 1953, has a picture of the Chief's account, but it says nothing about the Ex-sheriff's generosity. Just the same, Carl has received a lot of letters complimenting him on making this priceless bit of Americana available to public view.

Corresponding Members' Captain Russell V.

The Front Cover . . .

Russian Brand Marks of the 18th Century

by ARTHUR H. CLARK, JR.

The cover illustration of the early horse brand marks of Southern Russia will be of particular interest to those who own a copy of the 1950 *Brand Book* of the Los Angeles Corral. That *Brand Book*, of course, contains Don Percival's excellent article on the history and development of brand marks. The old engraving reproduced here, originally appeared in *Travels Through the Southern Provinces of the Russian Empire in the years 1793 and 1794*, translated from the German of P. S. Pallas, 2 volumes, published in London in 1802. The brand marks engraving appears at page 412 of the first volume of the set.

An excerpt or two from the text of the volume should prove interesting, "... the most important object of attention among these predatory knights is the rearing of fine horses ... pursued with a degree of zeal and attention, not inferior to that of the Arabs. But the Circassians endeavor to breed not only beautiful, but ... strong and durable animals, which are capable of undergoing hunger and fatigue, and also excell in swiftness. Almost every family of distinction ... boasts of possessing a peculiar race of horses, which when young are burned on the buttock with a peculiar mark: on this occasion they act with the most scrupulous adherence to custom, so that a person who should attempt to burn a character expressing noble descent on a filly of common race, would for such forgery forfeit his life. The most celebrated race ... has received the name of *Shalokh*, ... its distinguishing mark is a full horse-shoe, without an arrow. On the ... plate here annexed, which contains the different characters of the most renowned races of Circassian and Abyssinian horses, I have prefixed a delineation of the shoe above alluded to as well as the mark imprinted on the breed of the *Shalokh*." (First brand mark to the right of the hoof, top row).

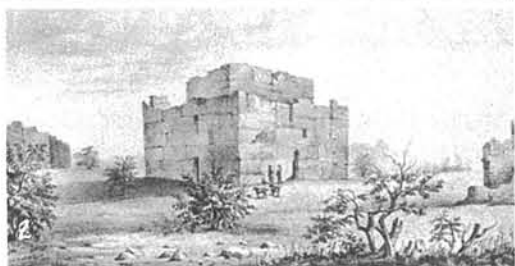
Steele and Mr. R. J. Wilkinson of Old England have sent books to the L.A. Corral to be auctioned off as payment for the next *Brand Book*. The Royal Exchequer doesn't like to let shillings get out of the country.

Los Angeles Corral of Westerners extends a hand of welcome to two recent additions to its roster of Corresponding Members:

Mr. Moritz Milburn, 340 Central Bldg., Seattle 4, Washington and Mr. Joel Barlow, Union Trust Bldg., Washington 4, D.C.

Four of Holling C. Holling's books, *Paddle to the Sea*, *The Tree and the Trail*, *Min of the*

Continued on page 6



EMORY REPORTS with VARIATIONS

by C. N. RUDKIN

Having acquired four imperfect copies of Emory's *Note, of a Military Reconnaissance* . . . with the idea of getting together one complete and perfect copy by vandalizing the others, I found on examination that no two were identical in content. Complaisant loans from Glen Dawson and Don Meadows increased to six the number available for comparison.

There were, of course, two distinct editions, Senate Executive Document No. 7 and House Executive Document No. 41, both printed by Wendell & Van Benthuysen, Washington, 1848.

The two House copies available to me include on pages 417 to 614 J. W. Albert's report on New Mexico, P. St. George Cooke's report on his march to San Diego, and the Journal of Capt. A. R. Johnson. Both copies lack the large map; the bindings are sound and there is no indication of map pockets. The other four, all Senate copies, end on page 416 and lack the additional material of the House copies. Three of the Senate copies include the large map or the map pocket; the fourth has the original cloth binding in sound condition but no pocket for a map.

None of the Senate copies conform to the title page cited by Robert G. Cowan in the "Supplemental Notes" to Cowan's *Bibliography*, reprint of 1952, in that all lack the phrase "December 16, 1847. Read, and ordered to be printed, etc." and that all refer to Emory as Brevet-Major instead of Lieut.-Col. Cowan's note appears to refer, as he suggests, to the first printing, which I have not seen. The two House copies have on the title page the note "February 8, 1848. Ordered to be printed . . ." and call Emory "Lieut. Col."

Both Cowan and Wagner-Camp assert that the texts of the two editions are the same. This is not precisely true. Space forbids extensive collating so the following must serve as examples of divergences:

House, p. 11, 33-38: ". . . (silphium lacinatedum;) the low grounds . . . [to] . . . cat-tail, and arrow rush." Omitted in Senate.

House, p. 13, 4: "amonites . . ." Senate, p. 13, 1. 1: "ammonites."

House, p. 13, 12-14: ". . . though diminutive, . . . [to] . . . (curcubita aurantia)." Omitted in Senate.

In both House copies signature No. 2 (pages 17-32) is from the Senate printing. It lacks the running head "Ex. Doc. No. 41" and carries instead the notation in the outer corners of the pages "[7]", like all the Senate copies.

Both Cowan and Wagner-Camp note that the plates differ in appearance in the two editions although the subjects are the same. The lithographs in the House copies have the credit line "C. B. Graham, Lith." Those in the Senate copies have "Lith. by E. Weber & Co. Balto." The accompanying reduced copies illustrate not only the difference between the two editions but the variation from copy to copy in the same edition. Numbers 1 and 2 are from House copies, numbers 3 and 4 from the Senate version. In all the copies they are bound facing page 82. The "View on the Gila" which faces page 64 in all the Senate copies is missing from both House copies although there is no evidence of damage at that point or elsewhere.

This brief note is intended to suggest the desirability of a study of the printing history of this, one of the most valuable sources of our Western history.

FINAL SURVEY OF THE RANCHO TRABUCO by HENRY H. CLIFFORD

graciously assisted by DR. ROBERT G. CLELAND

Following the U. S. acquisition of California in 1846, and the vast influx of people caused by the Gold Rush, it was to be expected that much confusion would arise regarding title to lands, particularly those lands covered by the old Spanish and Mexican grants. To solve the problem, Congress passed the Land Act of 1851; this created the Land Commission, which began sittings in San Francisco in February, 1852, and lasted for 5 years. Land holders were required to submit their titles to the Commission for validation. Some 800 claims were filed, covering about 12 million acres. Of above 500 claims approved by the Commission, most were appealed to the District Court, and some even to the U. S. Supreme Court. This required a long time, and resulted in much ill feeling and controversy.

Juan Forster was a prominent figure in Southern California during the late Mexican and early American periods. He was the brother-in-law of Andres and Pio Pico, and at one time owned the vast Las Flores y Santa Marguerita Rancho. He submitted to the Land Commission several claims, among them the Rancho Trabuco. He perhaps considered himself fortunate that this claim was approved as early as September 1, 1858, and the final survey ordered by John W. Mandeville, Surveyor General for California. The Rancho Trabuco was located in Orange County, lying east of El Toro, and covered 5 square leagues, equivalent to slightly under 22,500 acres, or about 35 square miles. The following letter from Mandeville to his Deputy Surveyor John C. Hays is self-explanatory, and is accompanied by a diseno, or map, which is illustrated herewith.

U. S. Sur. Gen'l's Office
San Francisco, Cal'a.
Sept. 1st, 1858

Sir:

Whereas in the claim of Juan Forster to the tract of land called Trabuco the U. S. District Court for the Southern District of California has affirmed the Decision of the Board of Land Commissioners, and notice is given by the Attorney General that no appeal will be further prosecuted therein, I have thought proper to appoint you my Deputy in this special case for the execution of the final survey thereof.

The Decree of the said District Court is to the following effect, "To the extent of five square leagues of land, and no more, within the boundaries described in the two grants filed in this case, and in the map to which said grants refer, being the map in the Expediente promoted by the Arguellos, to wit: on the East the Canada de la Gobernadora, West by Los Alisos and aguage, on the South by the low hills "lomerias" and Canada de Aguage, and on the North by the Sierra. Provided that should the quantity of land within such boundaries be less than five square leagues, then confirmation is hereby made of such less quantity."

A copy of the map referred to is herewith handed you.

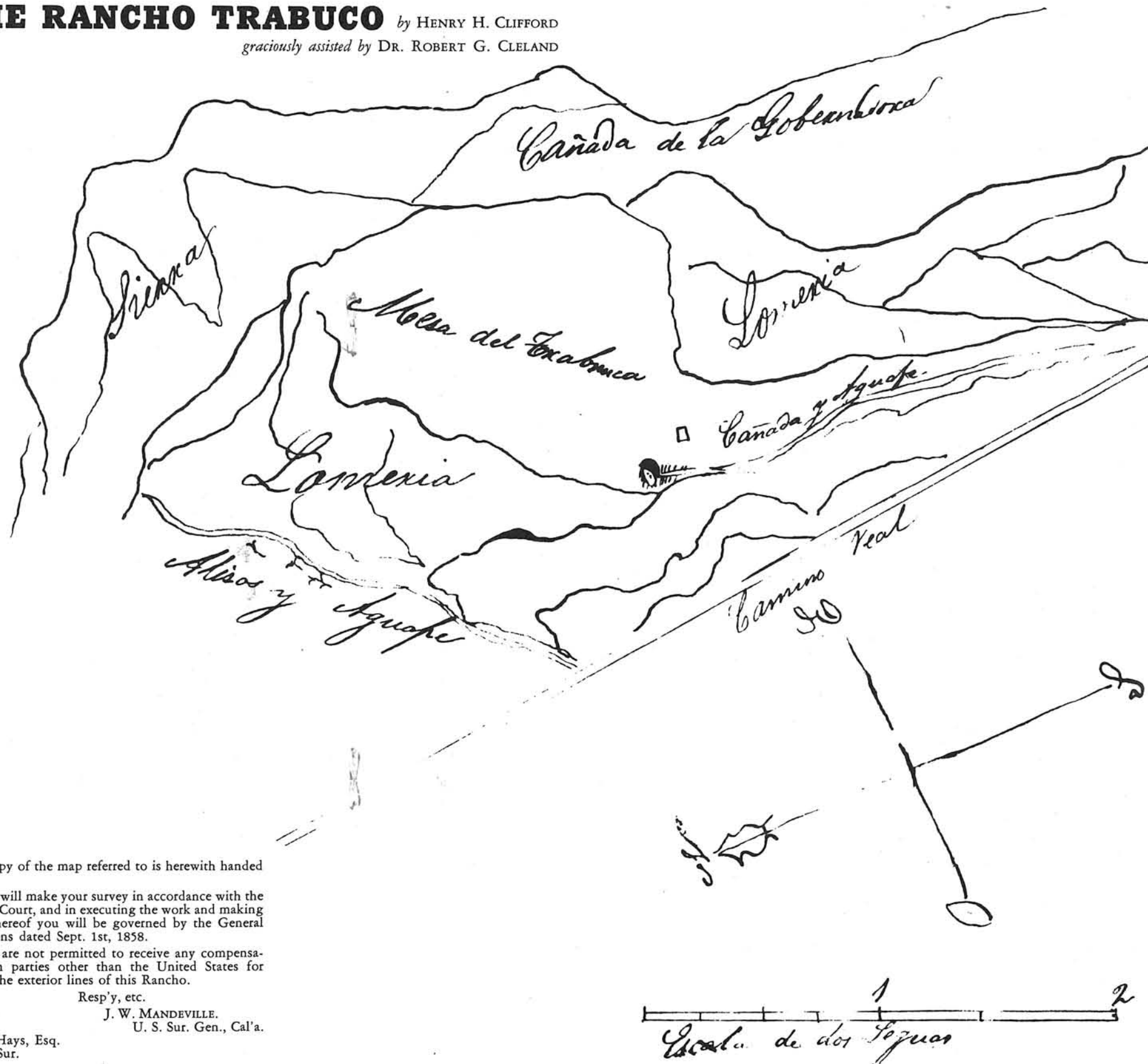
You will make your survey in accordance with the decree of Court, and in executing the work and making returns thereof you will be governed by the General Instructions dated Sept. 1st, 1858.

You are not permitted to receive any compensation from parties other than the United States for running the exterior lines of this Rancho.

Resp'y, etc.

J. W. MANDEVILLE.
U. S. Sur. Gen., Cal'a.

John C. Hays, Esq.
Dep'y Sur.



The West In Europe by LORING CAMPBELL

I have known for years about a great interest in our West in certain European countries such as Germany, France, Switzerland and Belgium, but I have never understood why until recently. A friend of mine who also loves all things western, is now touring Europe and he has just written some very interesting things to me that I am sure will be news to all members of the Westerners.

In Germany on June 1 and 2, 1952 a big Indian Council was held at Karlsruhe and 150 Indians who were dressed in the Original costumes of their own forefathers took part. If this seems a little puzzling, I will explain by saying that these Indians all live in Germany and are the grand children of Indians who went to Europe with the Buffalo Bill Shows. When the Wild West Show was touring Switzerland, Belgium and especially Germany, the Indians would desert the show and marry local girls. Finally, Col. William F. Cody was forced to hire German men to replace the original aborigines. These men he made into Indians with grease paint and costumes and used them until his tour ended. But the descendants of the Indians who married and stayed in Europe now carry on the traditions of their forefathers with tribal costumes, dances, etc.

Indians aren't the only phase of the West that Europeans are interested in. All rare book dealers in this country have hundreds of customers who buy books on Western Bandits and Outlaws, and on the Life and Lore of the American Cowboy. In Germany there is a Cowboy Club of thousands of members started over 40 years ago with headquarters at Munich. Their library has over 800 books about the American Cowboy. This club also has annual meetings.

I am sure that the Los Angeles Westerners will remember the talk given about two years ago by the noted western artist Paul Coze, who told us about the cowboy club in Paris and about the books he wrote on the American west before he had ever been to this country. One of Mr. Coze's books is listed in several bibliographies as an important book on cowboys and ranch life. The title is "Rodeos de cow-boys et les jeux du lasso; croquis originaux et textes de Paul Coze. Paris, Societe francaise de librairie et d'editions, 1934."

As far as I know there has only been one edition of this book and I do not believe it has ever been translated. I have tried to find a copy, but without success. I am equally as certain it was written before Mr. Coze had ever been to America.

So as Westerners and lovers of the West, perhaps we should go to Europe if we really would like to find out about our Western History.

Corral Chips (Continued from page 2)

Mississippi, and *Sea Bird*, and being translated into German for immediate publication. His art work speaks a universal language. The Italians have had access to Clancy's prose for quite some time.

Down in Nogales, Arizona, CM Col. Gil Procter, on the Pete Kitchen Ranch, built an adobe library and studio which he claims was gained through blood, sweat and beers.

Westerner Jack Reynolds wrote a cracker-jack and very favorable review of Dr. Robert Taft's *Artists and Illustrators of the Old West; 1850-1900* for this issue of the BI, but there wasn't enough space to print it. Sorry.

Arturo Woodward, down Mexico way, writes, "I'm far south among the good looking senioritas and thinking compassionately about you pore unfortunates who have to remain chained to your respective jobs. My next book won't have anything to do with Mexico. It concerns the distribution and use of silver ornaments among our eastern woodland tribes during the 18th and 19th centuries. When I grow weary of writing on this subject I'll order a cold bottle of Carta Blanca and sit and sip and watch the senioritas drift by in this peaceful city of Oaxaca." Oh, yeh? Mrs. Woodward is with Arturo, so the reins are down.

The Los Angeles posse has heard some good talks in the Redwood House this year. Donald W. Hamblin, Attorney-at-law and member of E Clampus Vitus led out on January 15 with "The Sharon Cases, or the Woman Finally Pays." The yarn was a colorful bit of famous San Francisco jurisprudence. On February 19th another lady was discussed in connection with "The Yellow Aster Mine," by Mr. Edward Kaufman. That Randsburg digging was under the management of Dr. Rose L. Burcham.

A double deal came up on March 19. Doctor Erwin G. Gudde, editor of the Journal of the American Name Society spoke on "California Names," and Westerner Frank Schilling illustrated a talk on "Folklore of Native California Plants" with a series of colored slides. The Roundup Foreman held forth for a hour on "The Filibuster Invasion of Baja California in 1911" at the April 16 meeting.

A real live author, Elliott Arnold, told about his discoveries in New Mexican history while working on a new novel. His subject was, "The Twilight of the Dons." Mr. Arnold wrote the book *Blood Brother* from which the successful movie *Broken Arrow* was made, and in which Westerner Iron Eyes Cody had a part. That same night, May 21st, Phil Rasch of the Los Angeles posse cleared up some western misinformation when he gave the background of "William H. Antrim, Stepfather of Billy the Kid."

DON M.

Mr. Levine Meets the Indians More On Billy The Kid

by R. N. MULLIN

by FRANK A. SCHILLING

In 1914 a chap named Sam Lewis and I made a trip from El Paso to Phoenix through the Gila country in my E.M.F. touring car, complete with carbide headlights, etc. The southern route through Lordsburg, Tucson, etc. was bad enough in those days, but the wagon roads up through the mountains around Silver City, Clifton and Globe were really something. In Silver City we picked up a traveling man named Solomon Levine. This was his first venture away from the culture of the East and someone had filled him so full of Indian stories that he was fully prepared to be scalped. Lewis and I contributed all we could to increasing the gentleman's nervousness, but agreed to take him as far as Globe on his promise to share the cost of gasoline, oil, etc.

Just before sunset we reached the Gila at a point usually easy to ford. We had been told that a group of Indians on horseback were usually on hand at this point, willing to help pull a buggy, wagon, or auto across the shallow but wide, rocky and muddy stream. Somehow we had neglected to warn Solomon about the Indians, and when they came dashing up to meet us with welcoming yells, our friend literally collapsed. When he learned, however that they were offering the hand of Christian help to the weary travelers, he revived quickly and went a little too much to the other extreme.

The boys wanted \$5.00 to pull us across, which would have been about 50c for each puller. Our friend, however, shrieked with indignation at paying \$5.00 and insisted on doing the bargaining himself. After prolonged negotiation, \$3.00 was agreed upon and we started across the stream. In the middle, with the water up over the running boards, the Indians suddenly stopped and disengaged all their ropes from the car, very calmly proceeding back to the shore with complete indifference to our anguished cries. After it had become really dark, one of these gents hove into sight and finally consented to ride out into the stream for consultation. He scorned Lewis and me, however, insisting on doing business with Mr. Levine. The price, it transpired, had gone up to \$10.00. This having become a very reasonable price indeed, we were towed to the far shore in darkness and in silence.

Westerner Jack Reynolds in "1953 AB"

Tell me, which give you the greater stimulus: the life of George Washington, or the life of Billy the Kid? Maybe you're ashamed to answer. Don't be—you've got plenty of company!

Mrs. Glennon, of Silver City, N.M., whose mother, as Miss Richards, taught Billy the Kid, from about 1870 to 1875, in Silver City, told me the following story—related to her by her mother—when I saw her some years ago in Silver City:

Billy's mother had a boarding house on the south side of the Big Ditch in Silver City, and Billy used to carry water and wood to the south side. Some of her boarders had gone away on a trip, and Billy and another boy got into one of the boarder's trunks and took some women's clothes and dressed up as women. They walked up and down the main street, and, as it was against the law to masquerade as a woman, or to impersonate a woman, the boys were arrested and placed in the jail. Billy was about 15 years old at the time.

According to Mrs. Glennon's mother, Billy, at heart, was not a bad boy. He had small hands and feet and was ambidextrous.

The old jail birds took pity on the boy and shoved him out through the fireplace chimney, letting him escape. A Mr. R. S. Knight saw him at Oak Grove, west of Silver City, and told his mother—who was staying at the Knight Ranch at the time—and thought she might give him some food and that he might then give himself up. Mr. Knight refused to arrest the boy on account of his youth and for the boyish prank. The mother took some food to him, also some clothing, and talked to him and he promised to return to Silver and give himself up. But he was so terrified that he did not return. That night he stole one of Knight's horses and from that time on was a fugitive from justice, and began his career.

Billy's mother stayed at the Knight ranch after school days. Mrs. Glennon said her mother had never heard the story that Billy committed his first murder to avenge an insult to his mother.

Billy's mother married and later lived at Georgetown, N. M., and had three children. One day Billy came and wanted some money—he was riding a fine horse. His mother gave him all she had, some ten or fifteen dollars, and talked to him. Billy had been on the Mimbres to see some of his people—his brother Joe. Billy and his mother had a long talk and when he left and said goodbye his mother felt she would never see him again.

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BRAND
BOOK



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