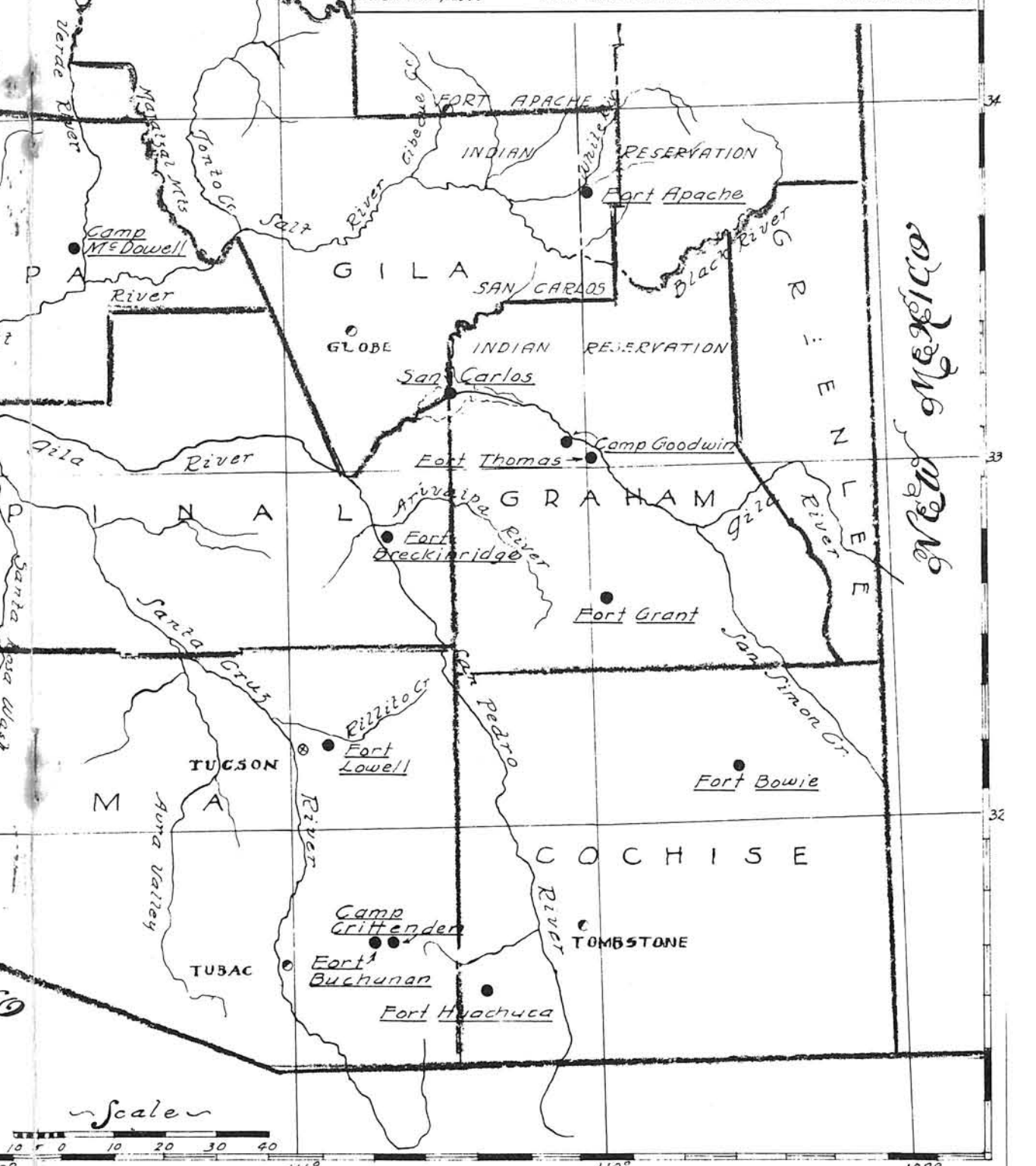


LOS ANGELES CORRAL  
WESTERNERS  
Hanging Man

DECEMBER, 1955

LOS ANGELES CORRAL

PUBLICATION 32



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## THE BRANDING IRON

OF THE LOS ANGELES CORRAL OF  
THE WESTERNERS

*Published Quarterly in*

March, June, September and December

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## O. K. ....

Perhaps I am a careless reader, or my memory is bad. At any rate I like to go back through a book and re-read the parts that are imperfectly remembered or which have given me pleasure at first reading. I tried this recently with two books by Mari Sandoz, recently published by Hastings House. I was looking for a short narrative about Lonesome Charlie Reynolds which seemed reminiscent of Joseph Henry Taylor's *Sketches of Frontier and Indian Life*. I haven't found the reference yet! The publisher could easily have prevented this frustration had he provided an index which these books so well deserve. And so I say—a Pox on all publishers who release books of biography, history, or real personalities without an adequate indexing of the material.

CM JACK MORRISON

Paniolo is the euphonious pronunciation given to the name *español* by Hawaiians. When the United States acquired the Sandwich Islands, range cattle and horses were shipped from California to Hawaii in the care of vaqueros who spoke *español* (Spanish). From the Californians the Hawaiians learned the range-cattle business and adopted the name of *españoles* as a title of the craft. On Hawaii a vaquero is a "paniolo."

BOB R.

## CORRAL CHIPS...

On Saturday afternoon, September 17, a motley band of Westerners from the LA Corral gathered in the beautiful garden of Westerner Dan Bryant in South Pasadena, and after proving that some waddies can swim, gave full justice to a buffet dinner. When tummies were full they lolled in easy chairs and listened to Maj. Gen. Frank Ross unfold the story of the "Transcontinental Railway Surveys of 1853." It required fourteen fat volumes for the Army Engineers to partially tell a story that the General boiled down into an hour, and they left out the politics, romance and ingenuity that made the great undertaking an epoch in western history. General Ross illustrated his conversation with some elaborate maps, done by himself, which graphically emphasized the problems that had to be overcome in bringing the rails to the Pacific coast. General Ross has had first hand experience with transportation problems, demonstrated by the famous "Red Ball" logistics which he commanded during World War II. An excellent talk on an important subject. Westerners were also permitted to purchase some of Ed. Borein's etchings.

Westerner Harry James, who lives in Banning on the deserts edge, told the story of "Fort Union" at the Mona Lisa Restaurant on October 20. The full flavor of his yarn will be lost when it appears in a future issue of the *Brand Book*, for his genial conversational style cannot be recorded in the printed words. Fort Union really had a history, and Harry James knows all about it.

Back in the old days when narrow gauge railroads hung precariously to mountain sides in order to reach hidden mining camps Marion Speer of the LACorral was a young fellow who liked to work on difficult problems. At Rands Roundup in Los Angeles on November 17 Marion talked about the "Narrow Gauge Railroads of Colorado." From personal experience he told about the fights for right-of-ways, the steep climbs for pay-loads, and the fading of a picturesque type of transportation. As mementos of the talk Marion handed out some German made, double-headed, railroad spikes that had been used in the building of one of the narrow gauge lines.

*All Westerners suffered a real loss in October when HERBERT KELLAR, one of the founding members of the organization, took his last ride toward the setting sun. Mr. Kellar helped start the Chicago Corral which was the first posse to ride western trails. Now eight corrals, in the U.S. and two foreign countries, carry on the work which men like Mr. Kellar so ably began.*



FORT THOMAS, Arizona Territory, in 1882 (looking West) — (Credit) *The National Archives*

## FORT THOMAS: Post on the Old Frontier

By FRANK SCHILLING

IT WAS during the spring of 1906, a few days before the disastrous earthquake and fire that laid bare a goodly portion of the City by the Golden Gate, that I had accepted employment in the office of the Chief Engineer of the Arizona Eastern Railroad (now a part of the Southern Pacific Company), at Tucson, Ariz.

Several weeks after my arrival, I was sent to Fort Thomas, in east central Arizona, to act as timekeeper on a gang of some 100 to 150 Apaches, who were employed by the railroad to relocate on higher ground the main line of the Gila Valley, Globe and Northern Railroad, between Fort Thomas and San Carlos (headquarters of the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation) where it had been badly washed out at many places by the Gila River on its periodic rampages.

Upon my arrival at Fort Thomas, late in the afternoon of May 2nd, 1906, I reported to Mr. D. E. H. Manigault, Resident Engineer in charge of the reconstruction work. His office was in an old adobe building, with a covered porch on the north side, a few hundred feet south of the railroad station. This old adobe had been used as Officer's Quarters at old Fort Thomas, an abandoned army post, in the heart of Apacheland.

The town, Fort Thomas, in 1906, consisted of three or four adobe residences, one of which served as a restaurant and was operated by a Mormon family named Windsor; a one room adobe store building with a one room leanto which served as a hotel room at night and the village barber shop during the day. The store and hotel room were operated by Alexander Brothers, of Yuma, and for the privilege of sleeping on one of the three-slat beds, with corn-husk mattress, I paid the munificent sum of four bits. On the east side of the town was the inevitable saloon, where I saw a little gun play on my last day in Fort Thomas—no shots fired, everyone had scattered.

The post, Fort Thomas, a link in a chain of army posts surrounding the Apache country, was established on August 12th, 1876, and was located about seven miles upstream on the Gila River from old Camp Goodwin. It was first known as the New Post on the Gila, but the name was changed to Camp Thomas, in honor of Maj. Gen. George W. Thomas. On February 11, 1882, it was designated a permanent post and the name changed to Fort Thomas, in accordance with General Orders #2, Headquarters, Military Division of the Pacific and Department of California. The first garrison was composed of Co. D, 8th U.S. Infantry, and Troop F, 6th U.S. Cavalry, under command of Capt. C. M. Bailey.

Twenty seven buildings, all adobe, one story in height, with shingle roofs, were built, most of them having been begun during 1876—(See accompanying plan). They consisted of:

(1 to 11) Officers' Quarters; (12, 13 and 14) Barracks for enlisted men; (15) Bakery; (16) Q. M. Office and Storehouse; (17) Cellar for subsistence stores; (18) G.S. Office and Storehouse; (19) Guard house and Ordnance store room; (20) Q.M. Storehouse; (21) Blacksmith and Carpenter shops; (22) Office of Commanding Officer and Library; (23) Telegraph Office; (24) Hospital; (25) Dead House; (26) Hay and Straw Corral; (27) Quartermaster Corral; (28, 29) Cavalry Corral; (30) Pack Train Corral; (31) Engine House; (32) Hospital Steward's Quarters; (33) Commissary Sergeant's Quarters; (34) Water Well; (35) Water Tank.

Officers' quarters were heated by means of stoves and fire places; the other buildings, where required, by stoves, all using soft wood for fuel. Water was piped to the various buildings, and it was reported to have been excellent. There was no system of sewerage at the post.

Camp Thomas Military Reservation was set

up May 18, 1877, in accordance with a survey made in January, 1877, by 1st Lieut. E. D. Thomas, 5th Cavalry. The boundaries were announced in General Orders #14, Department of Arizona, on June 11, 1877, and 10,847 acres, more or less, were embraced in the area. A portion of old Camp Goodwin was included, and the remainder surrendered to the Department of the Interior for disposition on July 22, 1884.

In his book, *Apaches and Longhorns*, Will C. Barnes, who was telegraph operator at Fort Apache, and at other posts, says that Camp Thomas in February, 1880, "was a rough camp, part canvas, part adobe, the whole a fine example of the housing arrangements Uncle Sam furnished his soldiers on the frontier." According to Barnes the *Jacales*, or Apache wickiups, were almost as comfortable. Another military writer, Lieut. Britton Davis, in his *Truth About Geronimo*, who had been stationed at Camp Thomas, states it was credited to be the worst army post in the domains of Uncle Sam and merited its reputation during the few months he was there. General Cruse in *Apache Days and After* states it was very hot at Thomas in mid-September, and usually chilly, or even cold, after the sun went down. This writer can verify this from his own experiences, 125' in the shade in mid-day, and no shade; and the thermometer down to 90' in the evening, when a coat felt comfortable.

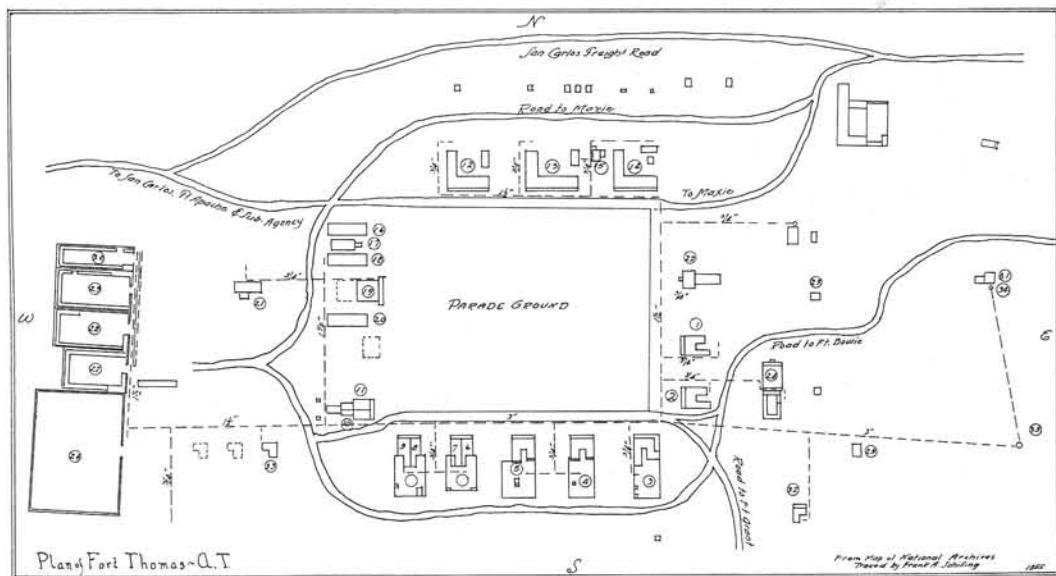
During its days of activity, Fort Thomas was reached by buckboard or army transport, from Point-of-Mountain station, located near present day Willcox, thence to Camp Grant at the base of Mount Graham, and over the pass in the Pinaleno Mountains to Solomonsville on the Gila River and on to Fort Thomas and Fort Apache. Point-of-Mountain was also known as Steele's, because the station was owned and operated by a local rancher by name of Tom Steele. When the railroad came

through in 1882, the railroad station was named Willcox, after General Orlando B. Willcox, commanding Department of Arizona, 1880-82. Of Point-of-Mountain Barnes says, "A more lonesome, Godforsaken spot for human habitation never existed, even in Arizona, and it had some other fairly good examples of such a place." The distance from Point-of-Mountain to Thomas was about 85 miles. It was not until 1895, when the Gila Valley Railroad reached Fort Thomas, that it was placed on the railroad map.

Fort Thomas was a two-company post, and not a fort in the true sense of the word. It was established to protect the reservation headquarters at San Carlos, and replaced Camp Goodwin, some six or seven miles down the river, which had proved to be too unhealthy for the troops stationed there, many of whom had died of malaria. Goodwin, named in honor of the first governor of the Territory of Arizona, John N. Goodwin, was established June 21, 1864, and abandoned when its troops moved to Camp Thomas.

After the surrender of Geronimo in Skeleton Canyon during the year 1886, the troops were gradually withdrawn from Fort Thomas, and the camp lost its importance. General Orders #35, Headquarters, Department of Arizona, December 22, 1890, specified that Fort Thomas should become a subpost of Camp Grant. All troops were removed and the military reservation turned back to the Department of the Interior, pursuant to General Order #81, Headquarters of the Army, December 3, 1892.

And so ends the story of old Fort Thomas, a post on the early frontier, whose piles of dust, could they speak, would tell many tales of hardship and bravery on the part of many officers and men, and scouts as well, pioneers of the army, in the subjugation of the Red Man who was fighting to save his ancestral home, and who felt justified in his actions.







THE TUNSTALL BUILDING after it had been occupied by the James J. Dolan Company. This photograph is believed to have been taken about 1885. (Courtesy Mrs. Bessie Dolan Chester and Mrs. Carrie Dolan Vorwerk.)

## A WAR MEMORIAL

By . . . . . R. N. MULLIN

THE "TUNSTALL-MCSWEEN" store building which figured so prominently in the Lincoln County War and which today attracts the interest of visitors in the old town of Lincoln, N. M., actually never was the Tunstall-McSween store.

Old records indicate that business was conducted under the title JOHN H. TUNSTALL, MERCHANT. For a time some space in the building was devoted to the business of the Lincoln County Bank of which John Chisum, Alex A. McSween and John H. Tunstall were officers. McSween, who was Tunstall's attorney as well as his friend and ally, had his law office in the building.

In their efforts to harass Tunstall, the Murphy-Dolan faction assumed the theory that McSween owned an interest in Tunstall's holdings, thus making Tunstall's assets subject to seizure in connection with Murphy's alleged claim against insurance money collected by McSween in behalf of the beneficiaries under the \$10,000.00 life insurance policy of Murphy's former business associate, Col. Emil Fritz. McSween countered with an affidavit that he was merely an advisor and not a partner.

After Tunstall's murder, Robert Widenmann managed the store from February 25 until June 15, 1878. Under the direction of McSween, Sam Corbett then took over and attempted to conduct the business until after the July 1878 battle when the victorious anti-McSween forces looted the building thoroughly, stripping the shelves and destroying what they did not steal. Some months later a new supply of merchandise was installed and the building reopened as a general store by J. A. LaRue, who had rented the building for \$40.00 a month.

The building is located in what was about

the middle of a tract originally purchased from L. G. Murphy by McSween in February, 1877. The site of the store, extending from the street back to the Bonita river bank, was apparently conveyed by McSween to Tunstall, and according to the late Maurice G. Fulton, the title passed to J. J. Dolan around the end of 1883. Dolan operated the store for some time, residing in a house he constructed opposite the old Tunstall building; Lincoln visitors of more recent years will remember the Dolan home as the Bonita Inn. According to Col. Fulton, Dolan's successors in the operation of the Tunstall store were, in sequence, as follows:

Rosenthal & Co.; Chas. Belhean; Lincoln Trading Co.; J. J. Haffa; Jaffa Prager Co.; H. Lutz & Co., and J. M. Penfield.

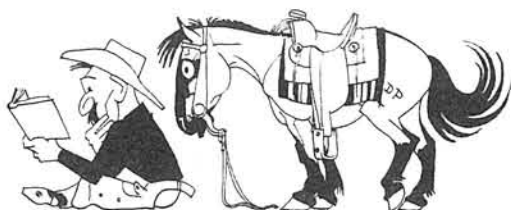
## Corral Chips

*continued*

Two new publications bearing the Westerners brand have made their appearance. From the Kansas City Posse comes *The Trail Guide*, (Vol. I, #1, Sept. 1955), 24 pages of good western reading. The feature article is by Alan W. Farley on "The Delaware Indians in Kansas, 1829-1867," a yarn that shows careful research and good writing. With "Howdy, Pardners" the KCPosse hits the publication trail with a grain fed policy of "publishing only when we feel we have something worthwhile to print." Frank Glenn is Sheriff, and Jim Anderson is Talleyman. Address communications to Jim at 446 W. 62nd St., K.C. 13, Mo. The other printed addition to the western string is *The English Westerners Brand Book*, (Vol. 2, #1, Nov.) similar in format to our own BI. Vol. One came out in mimeograph, but now our English pardners have a well packed printed journal which shows a keen interest and understanding of the things that are in our own back yard. The lead stork in the printed issue is "Rain in the Face" by Joseph Balmer.

Fifteen hundred people attended the dedication ceremonies of a statue of Gen. Geo. A. Custer in Monroe, Michigan, on September 5. Monroe was the home of Custer's widow for many years.

José Aguirre, who used to ranch on the sobrante of the San Jacinto grant, had a cow-dog that could do almost anything except talk. When someone asked what breed the dog was, Joe said, "Su madre era pura borreguera escocesa y su padre era nueve de los mejores perros en la ranchería de Soboba (his mother was pure Scotch collie and his father was nine of the best dogs in the Indian village of Soboba)." BOB R.



FEUD ON THE COLORADO, by Arthur Woodward, (Westernlore Press, Los Angeles, 1955, pp. 165, Limited Edition, \$4.75.)

It is a happy combination of talents when Westerners Arthur Woodward and Paul Bailey pool their respective abilities to produce a book of Americana such as *Feud on the Colorado*. Author, historian, anthropologist Woodward has written what is virtually a history of the Colorado River delta. Publisher Bailey has printed this exegesis (probably the most conclusive yet written) in an attractive volume commensurate with previous publications of the Westernlore Press. Though it is not a large book, it is much more than a casual history of the Colorado delta. The feuding derives from the attempts of George Alonzo Johnson and Lieut. Joseph C. Ives, young West Pointer, to be the first to explore the upper reaches of the river to determine its navigability. There was a conviction at the time this would be a signal honor, as indeed it was. The author in his research has substantiated Johnson's prior claim, who, in his riverboat, the General Jessup, preceded Ives by several months. The dogmatic Ives in his reports ignored Johnson's feat and this clouded a true perspective for many years. . . . Aside from the controversy, there is much on the Yuma Indians, the river steamboats, emigrants bound for California, and the struggle between various parties to control the lucrative operations of ferrying across the Colorado at Yuma. . . . This book embodies a great deal of information about the Colorado River delta area not previously found within the limits of one volume. There is an introduction by the author, an index, and a lengthy bibliography of notes just about as informative as the narrative. A typographical error which may or may not be interesting to collectors is the word "undertaken" for "undertaken" line 12 page 104.

MERRELL K.

THE MEMOIRS OF JOSE FRANCISCO PALOMARES translated from the manuscript in the Bancroft Library by Thomas Workman Temple II. (Glenn Dawson: Los Angeles. 1955. \$7.50.)

It is a pity that *Memoirs of José Francisco Palomares* had to be translated as without doubt much of the flavor of the doughty old Californio's memoirs was lost in the process. But, even so, translator Temple and publisher Dawson have done well in giving us a little more of the very little lore which has come directly from Hispano-Californians.

In Palomares' *Memoirs* the serious historian may not find much more than an inclination to wonder if Hubert Howe Bancroft docked the salary of his reporter, Thomas Savage, for the time spent taking dictation from the old paisano who bore the reputation of being very windy.

In her *Windows in an Old Adobe* (footnote, p.7), Bess Adams Garner wrote, "Those who have read his story as told to Thomas Savage in manuscript in the Bancroft library would think of him as a ruthless, cold-blooded exterminator of the Indians. Descendants of Don Francisco, however, have laughed a great many times over those stories . . . it is at least possible that . . . Francisco Palomares was 'pulling the leg' of the Bancroft interviewers."

Historians and romantic interpreters of life in Spanish California have missed a salient part of the record by neglecting the early folklore of such frontiersmen as José Francisco Palomares who deserves a place alongside such tellers of tall tales as Dave Crockett and Bigfoot Wallace.

BOB ROBERTSON

THE LOOK OF THE OLD WEST, by Foster and Harris. Evelyn Curro, Artist. (N.Y. Viking, Nov. 1955. \$7.50)

Here is a book I liked, from the dust jacket to the last page of the index. It is generous in size (8"x11"), well printed with wide margins, attractively bound in linen and boards, and has scores of detailed line drawings in black and white all through the text. The period covered is from 1865 to 1900; the Indian Wars, the Homesteaders, railroad building, barbed wire enclosures, steamboats, grass, windmills, cow ponies, six guns, and sod houses, Army uniforms, and women's dresses—all are here in picture and story. The bibliography seems hardly adequate, but the index is a dilly. For example, under the word *revolver* there are 65 lines of references to text and illustrations, 16 under *carbines*, 19 under *rifles*, and 24 lines on *saddles* and *trimmings*. This is a book to keep.

C. M. JACK MORRISON

Every Westerner has a library, either small or quite extensive. The collection holds two classes of books; loaning copies that are cheerfully shared with friends and others that are so highly prized that they are never allowed to go astray. *The Frontier Years*, by Mark H. Brown and W. R. Felton (Henry Holt & Co., N.Y., 1955, 272 pp., index, 4 to, \$10.00) will never be a loaning book. It contains too much close to a Westerner's heart to allow it to become a maverick. Three good reasons will keep the book closely corraled: it holds an incomparable collection of pictures, its text has literary quality, and the printing is exceptionally fine.

In 1878 A. L. Huffman moved to Fort Keogh, Montana, as a post photographer. During the years that followed he wandered through the dying west and recorded what he saw. From 1200 negatives of places, Indians, events and wild life Mark Brown and W. R. Felton have selected 125 of Huffman's finest pictures. With clarity and know-how they have added a text that will forever debunk the old bromide that one picture is worth a thousand words. Huffman's pictures are photographic art that can stand alone, but the research and lucid writing that has been joined with them intensifies their meaning. Holt and Co., has met this double challenge with fine printing and has produced a book that will always be a requirement in any good library of Western Americana. DON M.

The Ventura County Historical Society Quarterly is a new publication appearing within the past few weeks. Most of the issue is devoted to Dr. and Olive Mann Isbel, pioneers of 1846. Another good bit of source material is "The Wet Winter of 1884" by W. R. H. Weldon. P.O. address is 77 N. California St., Ventura, California.

Derned if our Corral ain't full of unknown information. Who comes up with a story about Arizona Charlie but that old scalawag Perky Bonebrake who lives out at the Hawg Wrench on Slunk Forks. Him an Charlie was friends when Charlie was the best roper in the country. Perk knows so much about him he writ a story which we ain't got room to print this time.

## The Indian War...

Reprint from *Santa Barbara Daily Press*  
Saturday, October 8, 1881.

### More Desertions from the San Carlos Agency.

[Special Dispatch to the Press.]

TUCSON, Oct. 8.—The *Star* has received the following special:

"BOWIE STATION, Oct. 7.

Two hostile Indian scouts were seen early this morning, and about eight or ten more were again seen near here, about two hundred yards from this station. Mr. Hall, with fourteen men, dropped their work and started after them. They retreated into the foothills. Some were seen this evening north of the track three miles distant. Their signal fires were seen to-night. Those we saw this morning were heading north, the ones we saw this afternoon, were advancing on the station from the south. Fourteen cars of cavalry arrived at 8:30

to-night. General Willcox received the following dispatches last evening.

SAN CARLOS, Oct. 7.—One hostile has surrendered at Fort Apache since my departure from that place, and an Indian who is believed to be the man who killed Capt. Hentig has been arrested. Signed. Col. MACKENZIE.

Sub Agency, San Carlos Reservation, Oct. 7;—"Mayer Biddle last night telegraphed the following: Jack, first Sergeant of Bailey's Company of scouts says one of the Chiricahuas and eight Warm Springs, called Chiricahuas, deserted this afternoon. McNoma, a citizen, saw a trail of about fifty going to the San Francisco Mountains. The trail was not over a day old. He thinks the scouts went with them. Biddle sent last night two company's of cavalry after them.

(Signed.) A. M. MCKENZIE, COL.

THE INDIAN GIRL INTERVIEWED.

Major Egbert yesterday, with Marijode as interpreter, elicited some points of information from the Indian girl that was picked up by the troops in the Dragoons Mountains. She stated that the soldiers followed so fast that many of the women and children could not keep up and soon ran off the trail and hid in the rocks, and that the Indians had used up all of their ammunition. She was asked why they left the reservation and answered that squaws did not want to leave, but the Indians forced them to go. Some of the squaws were whipped when they refused. One Chief refused to go and they took his wives and children and still refusing, threatened to kill him which caused him to join them. She said that during the fight at Cedar Springs the women and children were all in the mountains above the fight, and that the Indians had a great many of their horses shot. When she was being brought in from Wilcox and arrived at Dragoon Summit she knew the place, tried to get off so that she could go home. She apparently knew the country she passed over only a few hours before.

### MORE CRUELITIES.

A Mexican family, residents of Tucson, who had been on a visit to Sonora, were returning to this place, and when between San Ignacio and Terrante in Sonora, were overtaken by Indians and Ignacio Valenzuelo and his wife Futitita Garcia, were killed, also a 4 year old child. Jose Alvarez, who was also

