



MARCH 1962

LOS ANGELES CORRAL

NUMBER 60

BRAND BOOK REVIEWS GIVE CONTRASTING OPINIONS

Two of the reviews of the current BRAND BOOK, Book Nine, are so different in their viewpoints—and their conceptions of “bookmanship”—that they are reprinted here with only minor condensation. THE REVIEWERS: Russ Leadabrand, book editor of the *Pasadena Independent Star-News* and a recently elected Active Member of the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners; and CM Walker A. Tompkins, historical columnist of the *Santa Barbara News-Press* and author of several books, one of which is reviewed elsewhere in this issue. As a result of Reviewer Tompkins’ protest, a Santa Barbara bookshop relieved the “crying shame,” locally at least, by stocking up on BRAND BOOK NUMBER NINE . . . while it lasted.

Brand Book Top Calibre

By WALKER A. TOMPKINS

The only reason for reviewing a book which is not offered for public sale is when copies are available in public libraries—and when they are of such superlative importance as to merit calling to the attention of the public.

Such a volume is the 1961 edition of the Westerners Brand Book, published by the Los Angeles Corral under the editorship of Henry H. Clifford, who is a trustee of the Southwest Museum and the California Historical Society, as well as being a historian.

(Continued on Page 3)

The Bookshelf

By RUSS LEADABRAND

A group of about 50 Southern Californians make up the local chapter—or Corral—of an organization known as the Westerners.

Many of the members of the organization are writers. Some are historians, scientists. There are motion picture actors—Western actors, to be sure—doctors and artists.

These men are devoted to western folklore, western history, the Western Way; even though it is a hobby they work at it and this handsome new book is testimony to their zeal.

(Continued on Page 2)

Future Meetings and Speakers Announced

Speakers and dates for regular meetings of the Corral in the second quarter of 1962, as announced by Deputy Sheriff John H. Kemble, offer quality and variety:

April 19—DON LOUIS PERCEVAL, “Sorting Out the History of the Navajo Trading Posts.”

May 17—AUCTION SALE, to replenish the Publication Fund. Details in another column, and by direct mail.

June 21—GEORGE L. HARDING, “On the Trail of Tiburcio Vasquez.”

Brand Book No. Nine An Early Sell-Out

The current Brand Book Number Nine of the Los Angeles Corral went out of print before March 1, according to ex-Sheriff Paul Galleher, Sales Manager.

Not for ten years has a Brand Book sold out so quickly, says Paul, adding that rare-book dealers already are offering \$20 to \$25 for the handsome and fact-packed volume.

Number Nine, as agreed by reviewers, is an artistic success!

THE BRANDING IRON

OF THE LOS ANGELES CORRAL OF
THE WESTERNERS

Published Quarterly in
March, June, September, December

OFFICERS—1962

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5247 Vantage, North Hollywood, Calif.	
JOHN H. KEMBLE	<i>Deputy Sheriff</i>
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WILLIAM L. WRIGHT	<i>Roundup Foreman</i>
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IRON EYES CODY	<i>Chief of Smoke Signals</i>
DUDLEY GORDON, RUSS LEADABRAND, AUGUST SCHATRA	<i>Wranglers</i>

Address for Exchanges
and Material Submitted for Publication:

The Roundup Foreman
WILLIAM L. WRIGHT
1410 Graynold Avenue, Glendale 2, Calif.

THE BRANDING IRON plans to publish more original articles, up to 3,000 words in length, dealing with every phase of the Old West. Contributions are solicited from active members, CM's, and friends.

L.A. Corral Completes 1962 Officer Roster

Officers of the Los Angeles Corral for 1962, including those elected and those appointed by the Sheriff under the Range Rules, are as follows:

James Algar, Sheriff; John H. Kemble, Deputy Sheriff; Charles N. Rudkin, Registrar of Marks and Brands; Sid Platford, Assistant Registrar; William L. Wright, Roundup Foreman; Ervin Strong, Assistant Roundup Foreman; Bert Olson, Keeper of the Chips; Lonnie Hull, Daguerreotype Wrangler; Carroll Friswold, Librarian; Fred Vaile, Representative; Iron Eyes Cody, Chief of Smoke Signals; Dudley Gordon, Russ Leadabrand, August Schatra, Wranglers.

The Brand Book Committee is in process of organization. An announcement will be made at an early meeting.

Page Two . . .

Leadabrand's Review

(Continued from Page 1)

The current Brand Book was edited by Pasadena Henry H. Clifford, an investment counselor and a devoted collector of Western mail and Pony express items. Clifford has assembled a well-rounded book.

Articles in the big book touch on the coming of the Italians to California, jerk line teams in the West, sketches of the frontier by an Army officer, Fort Apache, a Gold Rush missionary to the Chinese, steamboating on the Columbia River, a portfolio of the famous Southwest photographs by Adam Clark Vroman, and pioneer gold coinage here in the west.

Glendale historian Bill Wright comes through in the volume with a fine true mystery yarn, this one about the actual location of the Butterfield stage station at Warner's Ranch. He has done a thorough job of research and builds a convincing case.

Printed by well-known Southland lithographer Homer H. Boelter in Hollywood, the book has been issued in a single edition limited to 550 copies. When these are gone, the book, as the eight volumes that preceded it, will become a collector's item.

Thus for two sound reasons—the quality of the contents and the fact that the book almost overnight becomes a sound investment—it is prudent for those interested in Western Americana to buy the book.

Typical of the meaty articles appearing herein is the one on the jerk line teams by the director of the Santa Barbara Historical Society, Irving Wills, M.D.

Before motor vehicles came onto the scene, freight wagons pulled by long lines of mules or horses supplied the boom town, mining camps and way stations of California over roads that left much to be desired. Running such a team was an art form.

Wills' highly-flavored article, like others in the book, is illustrated and carries a bibliography. The article dealing with Vroman's photography, by Ruth Mahood of the Los Angeles County Museum, sees the inclusion of 47 of Vroman's famous pioneer photographs of the Southwest.

Clifford's article "Pioneer Gold Coinage in the West—1848-1861" studies that uncommon industry and includes 16 pages of gold coins in color.

Assisting Clifford in the publication were Edwin D. Carpenter, Robert L. Dohrmann, James N. Algar and Paul W. Galleher.

Tompkins' Review

(Continued from Page 1)

"The Westerners" is a nation-wide organization of men interested in the historical heritage of the American West. Individual chapters, called "Corrals," may be found from New York to Los Angeles. The membership of the latter Corral is limited to 50.

The 1961 Brand Book is the ninth issued by the Los Angeles Corral and, like its predecessors, is crammed with previously unpublished Western Americana and exclusive photographs of great rarity. The editor included "a little bit of everything . . . ranging from Adventure and Art to Economics and Ethnology."

Each of the nine authors contributing to the book is an expert in his field. As an example, one of the major articles in this issue is on the subject of the Jerk Line Mule Team by Santa Barbara's Dr. Irving Wills, recognized as the West's leading authority on this topic. (A condensed version of his article was published in a recent issue of the local historical society bulletin *Noticias*.)

The book is not limited to California. Editor Clifford and Mrs. Clifford provide a definitive article on Columbia River steamboating, while Frank A. Schilling has an illustrated article on Fort Apache, Arizona, which is of tremendous value to the researcher and scholar interested in the old U.S. Cavalry days in Apacheria.

Dr. Ruth I. Mahood, curator of the L.A. County Museum, has assembled a priceless collection of historical photographs of the Great Southwest from private collections available to her.

William Lawton Wright, the San Diego expert on stagecoach days, contributes an article on Warner's Ranch. Andrew F. Rolle has chosen the role played by Italians in California for the lead-off article in the volume, "Success in the Sun."

Numismatists will reveal in the illustrated story, "Pioneer Coinage in the West, 1848-1861," by editor Clifford, one of California's best-known coin experts. It is profusely illustrated with life-size color photos of gold coins, slugs and ingots, many of them from the Clifford collection.

Jimmy Algar, one of Walt Disney's producers, was art editor of the volume. He selected Wells-Fargo "covers," or canceled

New Corresponding Members

Since last reported, the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners has welcomed into Corresponding Membership the following list. These new CM's are urged to make use of *The Branding Iron* as a vehicle for history, by sending in articles (up to 3,000 words in length) which add to our knowledge of the Old West—or news items of historical nature.

- Herbert O. Brayer, 3844 Jefferson, Riverside, Calif.
- Clarence A. Brimmer, First National Bank Bldg., Rawlins, Wyoming.
- Miles Clark, 3024 No. Marengo Ave., Altadena, California.
- Harold L. Cronk, 101 Palmetto Drive, Alhambra, California.
- John Sky Dunlap, 1617 No. Baker St., Santa Ana, California.
- F. B. Davis, 22080 Carbon Mesa Road, Malibu, California.
- Henry L. Day, 114 Cedar St., Wallace, Idaho.
- Fred Eldean, 516 Luhrs Blvd., Phoenix 3, Arizona.
- Bert M. Fireman, c/o Arizona Historical Foundation, 3500 No. Central, Suite 309, Phoenix 12, Ariz.
- Harry J. Forman, P.O. Box 5756, Philadelphia 20, Pa.
- Gosta Gillberg, Pontus Wiknersgatan 1-A, Goteborg C, Sweden.
- Randolph Jenks, 2146 East 4th St., Tucson, Ariz.
- R. J. Keyston, Holmes Book Co., 274 14th St., Oakland 12, California.
- F. C. Krieg, 308 Electric Bldg., Billings, Montana.
- Ellis J. Lucia, 1835 N. Highland, Portland, Ore.
- Laurence T. Paddock, Boulder City Daily Camera, Boulder, Colorado.
- Leslie M. Parker, 8 So. Michigan Ave., Chicago 3, Illinois.
- Gary L. Roberts, 1606 Chestnutt Ave., Tifton, Ga.
- George Schneider, Six Dill Court, Old Bridge, New Jersey.
- Mrs. Nina Paul Shumway, P.O. Box 303, Palm Desert, California.
- Walker A. Tompkins, 212 E. Mission St., Santa Barbara, California.
- Dwight E. Vance, 5414 Dahlia Drive, Los Angeles 41, California.
- Yale University Library, New Haven, Conn.

envelopes, for the end-paper illustrations.

It is a crying shame that this wonderfully informative book is not available to the bookstores for public sale. Each edition contains the distilled essence of Western Americana, in a de luxe package and with skillful editing. A print order of 10 times the 550 actually issued to the membership would be gobbled up by bibliophiles and devotees of Western history in no time at all.

Congratulations to The Westerners for a superb contribution to the body of existing Western history.

VARIETY SPICES CORRAL'S EARLY '62 MEETINGS

A picture-show of historic scenery in full color, a classic analysis of an old and obscure civilization, and a lively attack upon the "double standard of history" (which drew lively rebuttal) launched the Los Angeles Corral into a year of regular meetings which, under the guidance of Deputy Sheriff John H. Kemble, should bring continuing high quality of information and entertainment to the Westerners. All three meetings were held at our Winter Palace, Costa's Grill.

At the January 18 meeting George H. Whitney—attorney, scholar, book collector, president of the Friends of the Huntington Library—gave us new light (in brilliant color stills) on the 1847 journey of George Frederick Ruxton, "Ruxton of the Rockies," whose youthful heart "bounded within him, so that he lived enough for ten men, although he died just past 27."

A century after Ruxton's death, Whitney with his family and color camera devotedly followed his trail from El Paso to South Park in Colorado, almost from campfire to campfire. The meeting was virtually turned over to Ruxton, with the sparkling photographs captioned by quotations from the text. As Ruxton crossed Ute Pass he found himself "surrounded by stupendous works of Nature . . . which frowned upon me," and they frowned in full color from the screen.

Later generations of beavers and "beavered" trees were well represented, with the only blots upon the Ruxton landscape found in tourist hotspots and a few paved highways. The narrative was tied together by splendid maps, and the color photography added a fourth dimension to our comprehension of Ruxton as an earlybird among Westerners.

Guests included W. O. Anderson and CM's Art Woodward, William A. Kirk, S. H. Rosenthal, George McMannus, Frank A. McClure, Tom Brown, Walt Wheelock, Dr. Rufus M. Choate, Larry Meyer, Dr. C. A. Mason, Harold L. Cronk, Doughbelly Price and Frank Schilling.

Braving torrential rains, a full house turned out on February 15 to hear our own Col. Charles W. Hoffman give us a preview of his forthcoming book, the product of ten years of research into an ancient and remarkable culture in the Michoacán area of Mexico. It was a talk of great delicacy

and precision; Charley's own thumbnail description (written at the request of *The Branding Iron*) follows:

Historians accept the arrival in Michoacán, "The Land of Fish," of the nomadic Eagle People, circa 1200 A.D., and their intermarriage with the native Tecas, forming the Purépecha tribe. With the founding of their capital city, Pátzcuaro, "Where There Are Foundations For Temples," they became a kingdom with a standing army, fortified frontiers, courts of justice, regulated commerce, limited priesthood and daily courier service with all parts of the kingdom (280 mi- x 210 mi.) They had knowledge of astronomy, agriculture, medication, gem cutting, copper hardening, weaving, lacquering, dyeing, embalming, etc. The unwieldy kingdom was trisected with two kings subordinate to the emperor, or *cazonci*. The three kingdoms were assigned colors, red, white, and green. The *cazonci* displayed all three; the first known native combination of the colors of the Flag of México.

Two Azteca invasions were defeated but the Spanish-led Indio invasion (1522) found them with their first weakling leader. He fled as his leaderless armies were destroyed and only attained regality in the hellish tortures of his final hours at the hands of the demoniac Guzmán. After four hundred years in slavery—first physical, then economic—the Purépecha (misnamed "Tarascans" by the Spanish) are slowly regaining their rightful status. The 1956 census numbered them at 68,000.

The guests included Fred B. Hackett, a founder-member of the Chicago Corral of the Westerners, Frederick Baessler, and William Brownie. CM's John Sky Dunlap, Al Hammond, George McMannus, Dr. C. A. Mason, Dr. Van Kirke Nelson, and Dwight E. Vance also attended.

On March 15 Manuel P. Servin, editor of the California Historical Society *Quarterly* and resident representative of the Society in the southland, "put itching powder in what we call our brains" (to quote CM "Hutch" Hutchinson) with a challenging dissertation on "American History: North and South of the Border." It was challenged, without delay, in the question period.

Dr. Servin's thesis, supported by numerous citations, was that North American his-



GUNPLAY TOE-TO-TOE

Retiring Sheriff George E. Fullerton (left) and incoming Sheriff James Algar get the drop on each other as the job changes hands for 1962. George had the advantage of using Percy Bonebrake's famous old "belly gun," symbol of leadership in the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners, so Jim will keep his finger on the Corral's activities for the current year.

—Lonnie Hull Photo.

torians too often employ a "double standard of history" in dealing with politicians, politics, and peoples: One standard for our country, and a rougher one for the Spanish-American nations.

"Spanish-Americans feel annoyed, antagonized, and insulted—we are not doing too well below the Border," he said. "Something has to be done." His views found both support and dissent, also with citations, in an unusually spirited question session which illustrated that there is room in the Westerners for more than one opinion.

Guests included Felix Venatieri of the Black Hills Corral, and William Edgar Paxson; CM's in attendance were Horace Albright, R. F. Brown, Tom Brown, Ed Carpenter, Harold Cronk, W. R. Gold, Everett Hager, Ken Hamill, W. H. Hutchinson, Andy Kirk, George McMannus, Dr. Van Kirke Nelson, S. H. Rosenthal, Dwight Vance and Walt Wheelock.

Stockton Corral Elects

Officers of the Stockton Corral of the Westerners for 1962 are Hugh Hayes, Sheriff; George Eby, Deputy Sheriff; Wes Simard, Recorder of Marks & Brands; George Freeman, Keeper of the Chips; Merrell Kitchen, Rustler Chairman; R. Coke Wood, Range Rider, and Russell Fausset, Trail Boss.

Who Remembers When . . .

Speeding was known as "scorching" . . .

A skid was called a "slew" . . .

Your garage was only a "gerridge" . . .

You painted your own license number, on a slab of wood or metal or buffalo-hide, and hung it on your car . . .?

Let's get our recollections together, all of us old gauntlet-goggle-and-duster men, and jointly produce some real source material. The Roundup Foreman will cheerfully receive contributions, and fit them together in print.

NELSON FROM THE GILA

BY PHILIP J. RASCH

On August 16, 1877 "Eye Witness" sent the editors of the *Mesilla Independent* a description of the terrible times being experienced in Lincoln, New Mexico, during the days immediately following the attempt by Frank Freeman and Charles M. Bowdre to kill John S. Chisum.¹ In part he said:

Nelson from the Gila is here with the band; he says he is going to help the outfit burn the town. I tell you we are having a death struggle with these outlaws; . . . Information has just been received here of a fight between the outlaws and the troops . . .

Nelson is at the head of the band and no doubt will be run down into your County.²

The identity of "Nelson from the Gila," like that of the man found buried in Dan Huffs yard, "Meeten," "The Dummy," Andrew L. Roberts (Bill Williams), and William Campbell, is one of the little problems which fascinate the student of the Lincoln County troubles and prevent him from becoming bored with his subject. The writer makes no claim of having solved the Nelson mystery, but since it appears unlikely that he will ever know much more about Nelson than he does now, it seems worthwhile to put his findings on record in hope that someone else may pick up where he leaves off.

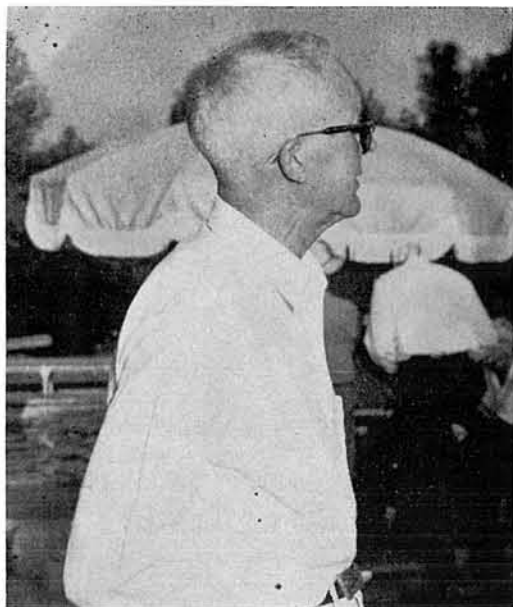
About one A.M. June 17, 1877 Captain R. N. Calhoun, who was living at John Perry's ranch where the Mangus enters the Gila, was awakened by the barking of the ranch dogs. As he opened the door he was shot in the breast, dying about ten minutes later. Three empty shells from a Henry rifle later found behind a pile of adobes were identified by a Mr. Venable, who was also in the house, as belonging to a gun he had sold Ponciano Domingues, from whom it had been purchased by Wild Bill Martin, alias Jones.

Perry gathered six of his neighbors into a posse and sent word to John Orr, alias Donaldson, one of Martin's gang, that he wanted to see him, guaranteeing safe conduct. After a considerable delay Donaldson finally made an appearance, and promised that Perry's horses would be returned if he would keep quiet. About eight o'clock the following morning Donaldson, Martin, Bob Nelson, and José M. "Portuguese Jo" Car-

rolla were sighted, apparently riding casually by Perry's house. When opposite the door they suddenly wheeled, drew their guns, and advanced on the run. Unfortunately for themselves, they had made the fatal mistake of underestimating their man. Perry had taken the precaution to obtain re-inforcements, and a withering fire met the rustlers. Wild Bill, Portuguese Jo, and Donaldson were killed outright; Nelson, shot in the hip and thigh, promptly fled. Near Donaldson's house his horse fell dead, but the rider obtained another mount and headed for the hills. The Mexican who saddled the horse for him reported he had a broken leg and was badly wounded in the thigh;³ Mrs. Donaldson, who dressed his wounds, later said that he was shot in three places but had no broken bones. Certainly he was badly wounded, for the Donaldson horse was covered with clotted blood when it was found on the Sycamore, three miles from the scene of the fight, and it was generally assumed that Nelson was dead.

Sheriff Harvey Whitehill and a posse searched for Nelson for two days, but returned empty handed. They placed Richard F. Gagen under arrest on a charge of aiding and abetting in the killing of Calhoun and also took one of Nelson's herders, a man named Hunter, and several "notoriously wicked" Mexicans into custody. Gagen and Hunter were given an examination before Justice Riles in Silver City and promptly discharged.^{4,5} A few days later a T. J. Wood wrote to the Silver City *The Herald*, questioning Gagen's testimony and asking why he was hand in glove with Nelson and had loaned him his needle gun⁶—questions to which Gagen appears to have made no public reply.

Nelson was reported seen on the Gila, and a Grand Jury voted indictments against him for murder and larceny.⁷ On August 25, however, the Silver City *Grant County Herald* reported it had reliable information that Nelson had died at Sycamore Ranch the same day he was wounded. Nevertheless, "Eye Witness" letter proved disturbing. The editor observed that if still living he was wanted for the murder of Captain Calhoun, and that "If Nelson is not dead it is evidence that those who so positively gave assurance of his demise endeavoring



DAGUERREOTYPE WRANGLER UNMASKED

Like that barefooted shoemaker's child, our hard-working Lonnie Hull seldom sees his picture in the paper; he is always behind the camera. Here is a sideswipe of Lonnie, stolen by his deputy.

Iron Eyes Cody.

(sic) to hide his tracks and screen him from the vengeance of the law. They should now be called upon and asked to point out where his remains can be found."⁹

There the matter appears to rest. So far the writer has been unable to find any further mention of Nelson in the reports emanating from Lincoln County, nor has he been able to locate any item in the Silver City papers to the effect that his remains had been identified. Was he fatally wounded at Perry's ranch? Did he survive to terrorize the citizens at Lincoln briefly and then leave the Territory? *Quien sabe?*

REFERENCES

1. Rasch, Philip J., *The Pecos War. Panhandle-Plains Historical Review*, XXIX: 101-111, 1956.
2. *Mesilla Independent*, August 25, 1877.
3. *Silver City The Herald*, June 23, 1877.
4. *Ibid*, June 30, 1877.
5. *Ibid*, July 14, 1877.
6. *Ibid*, August 4, 1877.
7. *Ibid*, July 21, 1877.
8. *Silver City Grant County Herald*, August 25, 1877.
9. *Ibid*, September 1, 1877.

Auction of Rarities Set for May 17th

To replenish the Publication Fund, which is an urgent necessity, the Los Angeles Corral will devote its May 17 regular meeting (at Costa's Grill) to an auction of rare and valuable books, prints, maps, sketches, antiques and what-have-you, contributed in this good cause by the membership.

Contributions may be brought to the auction, or sent in advance to Deputy Sheriff John H. Kemble, c/o Pomona College, Claremont, Calif. It is expected that each contribution should carry a value of \$10 or more. Duplicates from your collection, or items from your former fields of interest, will be prized by others—and the Corral finances will be rebuilt.

Detailed information is to be mailed by ex-Sheriff Glen Dawson and Paul Galleher, auctioneers, to interested Active and Corresponding members. A similar auction, held several years ago by the Corral, was a great success and a lively session.

As a sampling, Iron Eyes Cody will contribute reproduction color prints (in some quantity) of two famous Clarence Ellsworth paintings—the rare "Pipe of Prayer," and the extremely popular "U. S. Indian Scouts and Posse on the Trail." Some of them are autographed, and these in particular will be a bequest from our beloved Clarence to the Corral he loved.

Brand Books Draw "Interest" Like Money in the Bank

An indication of the increment which is piling up in the Brand Books on your shelf is found in six items of James F. Carr's Catalog Ten, distributed recently.

A copy of the Los Angeles Corral's Book One is quoted at \$37.50. Book Three lists at \$50, Book Five at \$25, Book Six at the same price, Book Seven at \$35, and Book Eight at \$22.50.

Brand Book Sales Manager Paul Galleher's records show that these collectors' items, when new, cost active and corresponding members: For Book One, \$6; Book Three, \$10; Book Five, \$10; Book Six, \$10.50; Book Seven, \$12.50, and Book Eight, \$12.50.

Another bookseller is reported as holding a copy of Book Three for \$110.

ARIZONA WESTERNERS TALL IN THE SADDLE

Arizona became the only state in the Union with three Corrals of the Westerners last winter, when a new group was organized in Prescott with the assistance of Dr. John Pickrell of the Tucson Corral. No further information on the Prescott enterprise has become available.

The third Arizona Corral is in Phoenix. Runner-up to Arizona in the national list of Westerners outfits is California, with its Corrals in Los Angeles and Stockton.

At the turn of the year Otis H. Chidester withdrew as Sheriff of the Tucson group, and Dr. John A. Carroll was elected to succeed him. Both men have addressed the Los Angeles Corral in the recent past.

Number Four of Tucson's "occasional" publication, *The Smoke Signal*, appeared as another evidence of Arizona's activity. A well-done 20-page pamphlet, it is devoted almost entirely to a single historical article, "The Desert Dream of the South, an Introductory Discussion of Civil War Campaigns in New Mexico and Arizona."

The author is James Lee Neeley, a seasoned history teacher who is working for his Ph.D degree at the University of Arizona. Neeley has assembled a highly competent account of the actions by which Col. James H. Carleton's California Column expelled the Confederates, under Sibley and Baylor, from the "high desert" in 1862, blasting the southern hopes for seaports on the Pacific.

There is an excellent two-page map, drawn by Don Bufkin for the Arizona Civil War Centennial Commission, and a bibliography. Copies of *The Smoke Signal*, No. 4, may be obtained for \$1.00 from Otis H. Chidester, Editor, 1937 E. Blackledge Drive, Tucson.

English Westerners' Society Ranks High In Research

The January 1962 issue of *The English Westerners' Brand Book* (quarterly) contains a thorough treatment by G. Derek West of the Battle of Adobe Walls. Drawn from numerous American sources, it is scheduled for publication in the *Panhandle-Plains Review*. The quality of history produced at long range by The English Westerners' Society is conspicuous, ranking with our own American work.

Page Eight . . .

Spokane Westerners Strike a New Note

The Spokane Posse of the Westerners last winter made an interesting new departure in historical publishing, for the benefit of their entire community, when they "took over" a complete issue of the *Spokesman-Review's* Sunday Magazine section and filled it from cover to cover with Northwestern historical articles written by members of the Posse.

This is believed to be the first time that any newspaper has devoted a complete section to its resident group of Westerners, and the regional history which they are dedicated to researching and preserving. The "Inland Empire Magazine" of the *Spokesman-Review* dated November 26, 1961, thus stands as a milestone in Westerner and western newspaper annals. Several executives of the paper are active members of the Spokane Posse.

A few copies of this unique edition have been supplied to Ex-Sheriff Paul Galleher by Thomas Teakle, founder of the Spokane Posse of the Westerners and a CM of the Los Angeles Corral. While they last, they may be obtained from Paul at 1264 South Central Avenue, Glendale 4, or by writing the *Spokesman-Review* in Spokane.

More than a score of brief historical articles, written by members of the Posse or excerpted from papers read at their regular meetings, fill this special edition. Indian lore, the fur trade, pioneer trails, gold rushes, ghost towns, cattle, logging, newspapering, railroading, doctoring, the law, and other dramatic phases of the old Northwest are covered, briefly but competently, by specialists in those fields. The sketches are written in popular vein, suitable for general newspaper circulation, with no effort at elaborate documentation.

A full-page cover in color and several other color plates, all paintings by regional artists, illustrate the 16-page tabloid size magazine, along with a few contemporary photographs.

It is safe to say that the general public in the Spokane area has been made more history-appreciative than ever before. The *Spokesman-Review* and the Spokane Posse of the Westerners, for their enterprise and co-operation on behalf of their community, deserve the appreciation of Westerners everywhere.

The Spokane Posse also publishes a quarterly, *The Pacific Northwesterner*.

Thirteen Former Sheriffs Attend January Meeting

Some sort of record for sustained loyalty to an organization must have been set at the January meeting, when no less than 13 ex-Sheriffs of the Los Angeles Corral were in attendance. Every Sheriff who has ever served the Corral was present, excepting the late H. E. Britzman, 1947; and Glen Dawson, 1959, who was in San Francisco that evening.

The ex-Sheriffs on hand, in the sequence of their terms beginning with Paul W. Galleher in 1948, were: Homer H. Boelter, Paul D. Bailey, Bert H. Olson, Carl S. Dentzel, Arthur H. Clark, Jr., Robert J. Woods, Loring Campbell, Don Meadows, Dr. Harvey Starr, Arthur Woodward, Henry H. Clifford, and George H. Fullerton.

The Branding Iron thanks these stalwarts for their continuous devotion to the ideals of the Westerners and the welfare of the Corral, hoping that even this impressive record will be surpassed with regularity in the future. These are the wheelhorses whose hard work has kept the organization rolling; their energies and counsel could not be spared.

Ainsworth Impressed by "Musical Archeologist"

Westerner Ed Ainsworth recently devoted his entire "On The Move" column in the *Los Angeles Times* to an admiring survey of the "musical archeology" perfected by Elisabeth Waldo, talented wife of ex-Sheriff Carl S. Dentzel.

Using instruments 1,000 years old and more, Miss Waldo and a group have reproduced three albums of the music played in the Americas many centuries before Columbus. More albums are in the making, the objective being to cover many of the ancient aboriginal cultures. "Maracatu," "Rites of the Pagans," and "Realm of the Incas" were the first albums; the next will be the prehistoric music of the North American Indians.

Those who have searched out the written words of ten centuries ago will marvel at the achievement of re-creating unwritten tonal qualities and folksongs. "Endless research" is Miss Waldo's formula, and Westerner Ainsworth is convinced that her musical reproductions are faithful. "A lasting contribution to our folkways and culture of the first Americans," is Ed's conclusion.

We Thank You, Paul Bailey

Since 1956 Ex-Sheriff and veteran Westerner Paul Bailey has served the Los Angeles Corral in the burdensome and detail-ridden post of Roundup Foreman, editing *The Branding Iron* with a thoroughness which made it a faithful mirror of the Corral's activities.

During those years he has written several books, published many others, and refused numerous personal opportunities for lack of time to handle them. He has built up his Westernlore Press from a hobby into a demanding, exacting, and historically useful business.

When his volunteer labors on the B.I. were crowded into the hours between midnight and sunrise, Paul's health began to feel it. This is too much sacrifice to ask of any man, so the Corral regretfully accepted Paul's resignation.

Los Angeles Westerners can never adequately express their gratitude for the prodigious amount of time, energy, and skill which Paul has given us. *The Branding Iron* will long retain the mark of his competence, for the new Editor will draw heavily upon Paul Bailey's experience, wisdom, and intimate familiarity with the Westerner world.

Corral Chips . . .

Three Westerners of the Los Angeles Corral have been appointed to a new Committee for the Preservation of Los Angeles Historical Landmarks, created in January by Mayor Sam Yorty. They are W. W. Robinson, Carl Dentzel, and Dudley Gordon. The committee is to safeguard landmarks which are threatened by "progress," and in other ways protect the heritage which belongs to the future, bequeathed by the past.

The fame of Lincoln County has spread to *The English Westerners' Brand Book*, with an article by our prolific Phil Rasch.

Exchange arrangements with publications of other Corrals and Posses of the Westerners are being renewed, and *The Branding Iron* hopes to keep its readers in touch with events in the Westerner world.

The new Roundup Foreman, a greenhorn in the saddle, will welcome suggestions, manuscripts, book reviews (brief!) and news items for the improvement of the magazine.

DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL . . .

EL MORRO: INSCRIPTION ROCK, NEW MEXICO; the rock itself, the inscriptions thereon, and the travelers who made them, by John M. Slater. Los Angeles: The Plantin Press: 1961. Fr., xvi, 158 p., of which pages 74 and 75 form a two page panoramic view of the rock and pages 76 to 135 carry 110 beautifully made plates by the Meriden Gravure Company. Book designed by Conrad Capune. \$30.00.

This excellent work on El Morro and its inscriptions has long been badly needed. The last (as well as the first) previous attempt at a comprehensive description was that of Lieutenant J. H. Simpson in 1850 (*Journal of a military reconnaissance from Santa Fé, New Mexico, to the Navajo country . . . in Reports to the Secretary of War . . .*, 31st Congress, 1st Sess., Sen. Ex. Doc. No. 64). Lieutenant Simpson had given three long panoramic strip plates showing drawings of the inscriptions on the north face of the rock and several page size plates of details of the south face. Mr. Slater's work not only corrects and amplifies that of Lt. Simpson but also demonstrates the accuracy and high quality of the work of R. H. Kern, his draftsman, and of the engraver.

Mr. Slater first gives a description of the rock and of the two prehistoric pueblo ruins on its top, with many beautiful photographic illustrations, and a rapid historical sketch of the rock and the affairs of New Mexico which brought it its visitors, from Cabeza de Vaca, who did not see it, to the American explorers, immigrants and tourists up to the 1870's. In this he brings out many interesting matters which might make this an excellent handbook for present-day tourists, were it not for the rather high selling price.

On the more technical side the work contains a list of some 280 inscriptions (not names, some inscriptions include two or three) including all of the known and readable Spanish and Mexican period inscriptions and a selection of names dating from the American period up to about 1875. The list includes a careful transcription of the letters and words of the original. In the historical text many are translated, probably all for which a translation would be necessary or useful. Mr. Slater points out the serious error made about 1924 of at-

tempting to remove worthless inscriptions, of which of course there were, and still are, many. But in the process, besides defacing the surface of the cliff, many valuable inscriptions were probably lost. In particular it is known from old photographs and records that the names of May Stacey, Kit Carson and Archbishop Lamy were erased, and the list of inscriptions mentions complete or partial erasure in several other cases.

The pictorial portion of the book begins with panoramas of the north and south faces of the rock, marked to show how Mr. Slater has divided them into lettered sections A to Q for use in indicating the location of the inscriptions. Of the numbered plates some 73 are copies of inscriptions (including a dozen from Simpson). Plate references such as will be made frequently by users of this work could have been made much more convenient by including plate numbers in the index references and with the inscriptions in the typed list when they are included in plates, which is not always the case.

The writer has found very few typographical errors, only two of which might cause the reader trouble: page 3, the inscription of Francisco Luxán de Jurado is to be found on plate 28, not 30; page 97, the numbers and captions of plates 42 and 41 have been transposed.

These very minor flaws do not take away appreciably from the beauty and great value of this long needed account of one of the most useful as well as most conspicuous landmarks of the Southwest. It is a must for every private or institutional collection of western Americana which would make any claim to completeness— and the issue is limited to 500 copies.

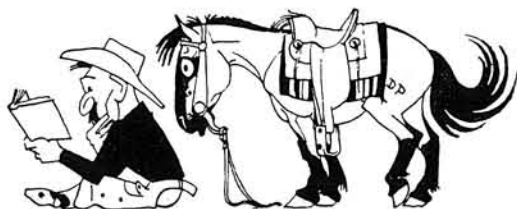
—C. N. RUDKIN.



ON DESERT TRAILS, TODAY AND YESTERDAY, by Randall Henderson, Westernlore Press, 1961. \$5.00.

This book provides 357 pages of fascinating desert reading, authored by a distinguished authority on the subject of deserts. It is a beautiful book, published by a Press that is recognized as one of the principal outlets for outstanding items of Western Americana—many of them relating to desert areas. The attractiveness of its press work is further enhanced by line drawings from the pen of the accomplished Don Perceval and maps prepared by the well-known cartographer, Norton Allen.

The book tells of trail adventure and exploration in California, Arizona, Utah and Mexico; even the distant Sahara receives mention. Notable desert characters are presented in the narrative; and considerable space is devoted to a discussion of Indian characteristics, ceremonies and living conditions. Interesting episodes are narrated, including the author's visit to the skeletal remains of Lt. Ives' historic old steamboat—the "Explorer;" the mysterious and unsolved disappearance of the young desert artist—Everett Ruess; and the saga of Death Valley's inimitable Scotty and his world-famous castle. The author is at his best in such chapters as "Gold, Men and Burros," "Campfires in Sage and Sand," and "Phantom Treasure in the Desert."



Among the fraternity of dedicated desert lovers, it is only natural there should be areas of friendly disagreement whenever the author of a worth-while book inadvertently (or deliberately) penetrates the private domain of another and challenges some cherished premise or conclusion. In truth, it is to a book's high credit if it be of sufficient stature to spark dissension and stimulate constructive argument. *On Desert Trails* measures up to this appraisal.

And the argument may just as well start right here. This reviewer—claiming a modicum of knowledge with respect to the characteristics and practices of Indians, and even confessing to a distant (although entirely unsolicited) blood relationship with them—refuses to go all the way with Mr. Henderson in his Cooperish glorification of this particular segment of the human race.

All of which, obviously, adds up to mere personal opinion; and it registers not the faintest dent in the excellence of Mr. Henderson's book. What will *not* fall into the category of personal opinion, however, are those occasional misstatements of fact that inevitably assert themselves *after* a book comes off the press. A few of these, fortunately of little or no importance, have weazled their way into *On Desert Trails*.

For example, Henry Washington did *not* give Twentynine Palms its disgustingly unoriginal and unromantic name. Some authorities doubt that he ever actually visited this part of the desert. Be that as it may, the best name this prosaic surveyor could muster, in writing his survey notes of May 16, 1855, was "a small cluster of cabbage palmetto."

Another example. The name "Boulder Dam" was *not* changed back to "Hoover Dam" during the Republican Administra-

tion of President Eisenhower, but during the Democratic Administration of President Truman, the date being April 30, 1947.

Of primary concern to this reviewer, because their fall-out hovers dangerously near his own front yard (meaning his current pet desert project), are the factual errors appearing on the first couple of pages in the chapter on palm trees. Figuratively speaking, these errors appear to tumble over one another in their mad scramble to gain recognition. First of all, the palm trees in Mountain Palm Canyon are *not* the palm trees seen and visited by "an advance detachment" of General Kearny's troops. In the second place, there was no "advance detachment" in the first place. Third: granting that it may have been possible, back in 1846 (even as it is possible today), to discern from the desert floor a patch of green on the slopes of distant Mountain Palm Canyon, the uncontrovertable fact remains that Emory doesn't *record* having seen it—not even in Mr. Henderson's garbled quotation of what Emory wrote on this occasion. Just to keep the record pure and undefiled, the palm tree oasis Emory (and Captain Johnston) *visited* and *described* was the little Palm Springs oasis midway along the Carrizo Corridor, whose trees were projected against a background of mud "cliffs." Fourth: this reviewer is at a loss to determine the true source of Mr. Henderson's direct quotation—"green foliage against a gray hillside." Sounds pretty all right; but *Emory* didn't say it. And neither did Johnston, nor Griffin. Matter of fact, it smacks suspiciously of Henderson. But why the quotes?

Irrespective of his reaction to it, the reader of *On Desert Trails* is certain to come under the spell of the desert's fascination; for the book achieves a unique blending of all facets of the desert's appeal. It is entertaining, informative, superbly written. Only one whose philosophy is attuned to the vagarious moods of this rugged land could so capably write it, and give interpretation to it. The author's knowledge derives from his intimate physical

(Continued on Next Page)

Down the Book Trail

(Continued from Page 11)

contact with the desert, and from a sympathetic appreciation built into his many years of desert living, desert exploration, and desert writing. In his book, and in the magazine he edited and made famous, Mr. Henderson has perhaps done more than any other man to bring love and understanding of the desert into the hearts and minds of people everywhere.

"The desert," writes Mr. Henderson, "is harsh and may be cruel to the imprudent, mysterious to the unknowing, fascinating to those who delve behind the mask of austerity, but never hostile to those who come with prudence and humility."

—E. I. (EDDIE) EDWARDS.



SANTA BARBARA'S ROYAL RANCHO, by Walker A. Tompkins. Berkeley: Howell-North Books: 1960. 282 pp. \$6.00.

The well-told tale of Rancho Los Dos Pueblos, Don Nicolás A. Den's coastal land grant west of Santa Barbara describable as the Goleta Valley. This region has been a "sleeper" in California pastoral history, and Author Tompkins—versatile Santa Barbara writer and journalist—has brought it to lusty life. The book is deliberately "un-scholarly" in style, and is the better for it; the original research shines through the fleshing-out of detail and incident, packing information into entertainment.

The tale begins long before the young Irish supercargo, Nicholas A. Den, jumped his Boston hide ship in 1836 and, as "*el medico*," adopted (and was embraced by) the country. It ends with a "To Be Continued," for the name of Den is gone and the land is disappearing under subdivisions. Almost everything that has shaped California made its impact felt at Los Dos Pueblos, often with an odd quirk, so that the regional history is rightly called "fabulous."

Cabrillo in 1542 anchored offshore and noted the two pre-historic Indian villages which gave the place the name that still appears on a freeway off-ramp in 1962. In between came such men as Portolá, Anza, Serra, Frémont, San Francisco vigilantes, the outlaw Jack Powers, the tycoon W. W. Hollister and a succession of other tycoons including inevitably—in the 1930's—one who deemed the old adobes ugly, and bulldozed them flat.

Owning the grant from 1842 only until

1862, when he died, Don Nicolás nevertheless left the stamp of his pungent personality upon the land. Santa Barbara is a Queen of the Missions today because he and his brother, Dr. Richard Den, leased and then "bought" it after the Decree of Confiscation; the *padres* were allowed to remain, and the altar candles have burned continuously since Fr. Lasuén lighted them in 1786. Yet the Den relationship with the Church was sometimes troubled.

Boom and bust ruled the cattle trade, even the "meat boom" during the Gold Rush. Within two years after Don Nicolás' death drought had withered the Den herds from 25,000 head to 40, and the price from \$50 to \$3.30. The ten Den children sold off most of the land, but one daughter, Kate Den Bell, grimly held on to her portion—where Fr. Font had reported a tar seepage in 1744. After her death, this became the Ellwood oil field; Dos Pueblos was booming again, and one year's taxes on its petroleum production more than paid for Santa Barbara's lovely courthouse. In 1942 a Japanese submarine shelled Ellwood, a ludicrous affair which Author Tompkins sets forth in detail.

To drive this coastal stretch of El Camino Real for 40 years, sensing always that history must have been busy here—and then to find this enjoyable recital of it—is a privilege. If every notable span of highway could be so ably interpreted, every journey would be enriched, and even staying at home would be more fun.

—W. L. WRIGHT.



JOHN WALTON CAUGHEY, a bibliography of his writings, by Norris Hundley, Jr., Los Angeles: Glen Dawson: 1961. viii, 24 p., port. 200 copies printed by Grant Dahlstrom at the Castle Press.

In spite of the title about half of the book is devoted to a biographical sketch of Dr. Caughey and a discussion and appreciation of his publications, in volume nearly all historical, and largely relating to California and the West, but also demonstrating his interest in the current political situation, as illustrated by his *In Clear and Present Danger* and *Their Majesties the Mob*.

The bibliography, listing eighteen books and some 95 articles either in periodicals or appearing as portions of books, will be of interest not only to those who have a special interest in Dr. Caughey's personal work, but also as a supplement to the general bibliography of California and the West.

—C. N. RUDKIN.