



JUNE 1963

LOS ANGELES CORRAL

NUMBER 65

HISTORY OF THE CATTLE BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA

By GORDON VAN VLECK
*Past President of the
California Cattlemen's Association*

Cattle ranching is listed as California's first industry so I wondered just how long this business has been going on around us. I have gone back beyond the days of the first cattle in California and have found some very interesting facts and I am sure you will agree that these events set the stage for the part cattle have played in the history of California.

When you are talking about the history of cattle you are in effect talking about the history of man because nearly everywhere that man went he took some cattle with him. Leif Ericsson, the Norse explorer, left Greenland and settled on the mainland of North America in the year 1004. His party brought with them many kinds of livestock including cattle. These people and their cattle spread and prospered until around 1500 when they succumbed to illness and were wiped out with all their livestock. But for five hundred years the Greenlanders were America's only cattlemen.

Just a few years prior to the disappearance of the Norsemen, Christopher Columbus, on his second journey to America in 1493, also brought some cattle. And so the story goes, as each explorer came to America he brought with him some cattle. But it was up to the Spaniards to bring the cattle that were to become so important in future years in the development of the west and particularly California. Cortez and Coronado both brought cattle from Spain to Mexico, and when Coronado went north into the river valleys the cattle went with him. At that time there were three areas in Spain with different breeds of cat-

tle: the Gallejo and Navarro breeds were found in the north, the Castilians in central Spain and the Andalusians in the south. Since the main port of exit during those days was Seville, and it is in southern Spain, it is assumed that most of the cattle exported to America were Andalusians.

These cattle were sired by the fighting bulls of Seville and were the ancestors of the famous Texas Longhorn. By today's standards these cattle were not much to look at but in those days they were king. They had the ability to survive without much care from their owner. They could withstand heat and cold as well as drought. They could ward off disease and with their sharp horns could fight off their natural enemies. No other breed of cattle had these characteristics and where all others disappeared when abandoned by man, the Spanish cattle managed to survive.

Although it was the Conquistadore who trailed the first herds into the southwest, it was the Padre who insured their survival in a hostile environment. At the early missions along our southern border from Texas to California, Indians were trained to herd, pasture, breed and improve the cattle under supervision of their spiritual fathers. They did such a good job at riding that they soon surpassed the Spanish Vaqueros.

For more than 200 years these Spanish Missions survived and founded a number of similar establishments. Eventually there were forty-eight in New Mexico; twenty in Texas; eighteen in Arizona and twenty-one

(Continued on Page 3)

THE BRANDING IRON OF THE LOS ANGELES CORRAL OF THE WESTERNERS

Published Quarterly in
March, June, September, December

OFFICERS—1963

JOHN H. KEMBLE	<i>Sheriff</i>
Pomona College, Claremont, Calif.	
CHARLES H. RUDKIN	<i>Deputy Sheriff</i>
1490 Lorain Road, San Marino 9, Calif.	
ERVIN STRONG	<i>Registrar of Marks & Brands</i>
2915 Mesa Drive, West Covina, Calif.	
RUSS LEADABRAND	<i>Assistant Registrar</i>
1505 Topeka St., Pasadena 7, Calif.	
SID PLATFORD	<i>Roundup Foreman</i>
152 West Duarte Road, Arcadia, Calif.	
AUGUST SCHATRA	<i>Assistant Roundup Foreman</i>
2090 Los Robles Ave., San Marino, Calif.	
BERT OLSON	<i>Keeper of the Chips</i>
619 North Rexford Dr., Beverly Hills, Calif.	
CARROLL FRISWOLD	<i>Librarian</i>
519 W. Foothill Blvd., Altadena, Calif.	
LONNIE HULL	<i>Daguerreotype Wrangler</i>
DUDLEY GORDON	<i>Representative</i>
2840 Herkimer St., Los Angeles 39, Calif.	
IRON EYES CODY	<i>Chief of Smoke Signals</i>
E. I. EDWARDS	<i>Editor, Brand Book</i>
1045 W. Huntington Dr., Arcadia, Calif.	
JAMES S. FASSERO, ERNEST H. HOWARD, WARREN F. LEWIS, PHILIP J. RASCH	<i>Wranglers</i>

Address for Exchanges
and Material Submitted for Publication:

The Roundup Foreman
SID PLATFORD
152 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia, 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.

Corral Chips . . .

Sheriff John H. Kemble is leaving on a six-month sabbatical leave from his professorial duties at Pomona College.

CM Burr Belden, as chairman of the nominating Committee of the Conference of California Historical Societies, attended the conference meeting at San Francisco the week end of June 22.

Jim Fassero's *Photographic Giants of Palomar* has gone into its eighth edition.

Ex-Sheriff Hank Clifford has invited the Corral to hold their July 18th meeting at his home and is feeding the boys barbecued buffalo.

Ex-Sheriff Bob Woods is hosting Dr. George P. Hammond of the Bancroft Library.

Page Two . . .

Corral Meetings

The March 21st meeting was held at Costa Grill with Dr. Nicholas A. Renzetti presenting a most interesting address on "Space Technology, The New Frontier," describing the development of supersonic aircraft to Rocket Technology and the important contribution of California scientific plants. The April 18th meeting was by our own member Bill Kimes, who spoke on one of California's most prominent adopted sons "John Muir the Man." Bill's talk reflected the years of study he had devoted to "John of the Mountains," who had the early foresight to preserve our valuable forests and watersheds for posterity which is now so fittingly perpetuated by the memorial of the unrivaled John Muir Trail extending along the heights from the summit of Mt. Whitney to the Yosemite Valley.

The May 16th meeting was held at the Roger Young Auditorium where we were treated to one of Dr. Rufus M. Choate's delightful anecdotal talks on "The Life of Clarence Darrow," and his many famous trials; especially one in which he was charged with jury fixing here in Los Angeles during the Times Explosion Trial in which he had to call on our famous local Earl Rogers to win his freedom.

Credential Committee

Sheriff John Kemble reports: I haven't heard any further from Leland Case since his letter of 12th March in which he asked me to hold up the publication of his letter until the people at Denver be fully informed of plans. He had suggested setting up a Credentials Committee which would function as informally as possible, but which could disseminate information as to the general character of the Westerners to those interested, pass on the credentials of groups desiring to become corrals, act as a central group for the exchange of information between corrals, and collect copies of records and publications of corrals in designated depositories. We have appointed George Fullerton as our representative on the Credentials Committee, I rather expect that this group will get together for the first time at the meeting in connection with the Western History Association meeting at Salt Lake City next October."

THE CATTLE BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA

(Continued from Page 1)

in California. The livestock industry owes the most to one Father Eusebio Francisco Kino. Born in Austria in 1644, he came to Old Mexico in 1681. As a rancher he founded and managed a breeding establishment at his first mission, Dolores in Old Mexico, and from here sent hundreds of cattle and sheep to his Arizona missions as well as to Lower California.

When Portola's overland expedition to California reached San Diego Bay in July 1769, the spiritual leadership was entrusted to Father Junipero Serra, who brought with him about 400 head of livestock, some of which were cattle. To Father Serra goes the credit of bringing the first cow to California. This took place in July, 1769. Missions had good climate, plenty of water, unlimited pasture and an abundant labor supply—the Indians. Four years later, in 1773, all the missions then founded in California had a total of only 204 cattle. By 1784 nine of the California missions had 5,384 cattle; in 1800 the estimate was 74,000; and when the missions reached their peak in 1833 they had 424,000 head of cattle, a substantial increase.

It has always been true that it takes land to raise cattle, and it is interesting to see how the land of California was distributed. Land tenure was based on an ancient principle of Spanish law which recognized the king as owner in fee simple of all the colonial possessions in the New World and vested in him private title to the fabulous resources of a continent. Successive Spanish sovereigns used, for a hundred different ends, the inexhaustible fund of land thus placed at their disposal. In accordance with usual practice, the settlement of California was carried out by means of presidios, missions and pueblos, three highly specialized frontier institutions which for generations had rendered invaluable service in converting the wilderness into a Spanish civilization.

The presidio was a military post designed to provide protection against foreign invasion and for the preservation of internal order. The pueblo, or town, was occupied by civilian colonists and the missions had the responsibility of converting the gen-

tile Indians to the faith and of transforming them into loyal and industrious subjects of the crown. All three had adequate land at their disposal on which to pasture their livestock. The missions had the use of enormous tracts of land but such concessions were only temporary and did not carry with them title in fee simple or permanent rights of use.

Governor Pedro Fages was responsible for the first private land grant in 1784. Several soldiers who had served under Fages had acquired considerable numbers of horses and cattle. They petitioned him for unoccupied grazing lands in the vicinity of Mission San Gabriel in order that they might set themselves up as ranchos when they retired from the army. There were about twenty of these grants made during the following forty year period and some of them were very large, one in particular in 1824 consisted of nearly 300,000 acres.

During the Spanish rule the government established definite branding laws. Round-up and slaughter dates were announced and strictly maintained. This was the beginning of the rodeos of today. To control slaughter a 25 cent per head tax was levied and this system of taxation supported the government. Prices of cattle in those days were: \$4 to \$5 for a bull and \$2 for a cow. Dried beef sold at twenty-five pounds for \$1.00; meat cut and ready for drying sold at twenty-five pounds for 31½ cents. Tallow was worth \$1.12 for twenty-five pounds, untanned hides brought 37 cents and tanned hides sold for \$2.25 each.

Around 1820 the overthrow of Spanish rule occurred and in time the creation of the Republic of Mexico which succeeded to all the rights in the public domain previously vested in the King of Spain. These changes made very little difference on the existing land situation. The new governors apparently honored all of the Spanish grants and continued on the conservative land-grant policy which had been followed for about fifty years and during the next ten year period only twelve to fifteen grants were made.

In 1826 a group of influential Californians began to demand that the government return to the public domain land held by the missions and in so doing render their enormous properties subject to the right of private pre-emption. This movement found support both in Mexico and California and finally culminated in the revolutionary

(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from Previous Page)

Secularization Act of 1833—a law which brought the mission era to a dramatic close in California and ushered in the golden age of the ranchos. It was the thinking that the mission was distinctly a frontier institution and had no place in a settled, well-ordered society, and ceased to fulfill its original purpose whenever the region about it became effectively civilized. At this time the missions controlled millions of acres of the richest pasture and farming land in the province and were the most flourishing and effective institutions in California. A few years later, thanks to the acts of the government, they were little more than romantic but melancholy ruins.

Ostensibly, the Secularization Act was designed to benefit the Indians and make them self-sustaining people. Actually it led to the rapid disintegration of the mission-controlled communities and scattered the partly civilized Indians like sheep without a shepherd. The result was fifty years of wretchedness and poverty. Unfortunately, this release from bondage did not produce the intended results. The Indians were no more fitted for self-government and self-support than were the unhappy Negroes of the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War. The same situation exists to some degree today in Africa where governments have withdrawn completely and turned all the responsibilities over to the natives who are not capable of making the adjustment to such a rapid transition. Many of the Indians drank and gambled away their inheritances, many ended as beggars and thieves. Some found employment on the ranchos where they worked for practically nothing.

This act of 1833 revolutionized the departmental land system and made the rancho the dominant economic and social institution in the province. The government completely abandoned the cautious land-grant policy previously followed and with lavish generosity distributed the national domain to private petitioners. The government gave away land willingly and no pay was required; the only condition of the grant was that the grantee should occupy the land, build a house and put several hundred head of cattle on it. Whenever he promised to meet these conditions he could get a grant of any piece of public land of eleven square leagues or less for the asking. A league is three statute miles and a square league is approximately 4,500 acres. This would make a tract of land of

about 50,000 acres. It was a grand Mexican homestead law, and the only complaint was by the government that the number of applicants for grants was not greater. During the short thirteen years that followed the beginning of American occupation in 1846 California governors issued over 500 grants to private claimants. In 1850, the year California became a state, the coastal area was occupied by a series of enormous private estates, called ranchos, which were primarily devoted to cattle raising. These great ranchos were the dominant feature of California life. They remained the controlling factor in much of the state's settlement and agricultural development for many years to come, and their gradual conversion into cities, towns and farming communities brought into being the southern California we know today.

In the meantime, gold had been discovered at Coloma and people were pouring into the northern part of the state at a rate that overwhelmed the native population. Up to this time the main value in cattle was in the hides and tallow, very little of the meat was ever sold. The cowhide was often referred to as a "California Bank Note." The missions had practically liquidated their large herds because they had no land left on which to graze them. But the miners to the north wanted meat to eat and it was up to the ranchos in the south to supply it. This brought on the commercialization of ranching and the spectacular livestock boom of the 1850's. In 1854 cattle were sold in Sacramento and San Francisco for as much as \$150 per head. There were many cattle being raised by men in the northern part of the state at this time but most of them were of poor quality and were valued only for their hides and tallow. One of these men was John Sutter, who was one of the famous pioneers of California and had great herds of cattle. When the miners came in 1849 they had no concern for Sutter's large holdings. They slaughtered his cattle and laid waste to his property. He died a poor man but was truly the great cattleman of this era. The raids by the Indians on the herds of these stockmen also added to the difficulties of cattle raising in northern California.

Southern California was the beef basket for the mines and the cities of Sacramento and San Francisco for about ten years after gold was discovered. Los Angeles County alone supplied 25,000 to 30,000 head during the boom and the supply could not keep

(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from Previous Page)

up with the demand. Large herds of cattle were trailed all the way from Texas and Missouri to take advantage of the high prices. Complete books have been written about these trail herds as they were colorful and romantic part of the cattle business. It was estimated that 90,000 head passed by Fort Kearney, Nebraska, during the spring and summer of 1852 on their way to California. But in spite of all this prosperity and activity the cattlemen were having their problems as well. In 1850, California became a state and taxes have been of great concern to livestock men since that time. As I have pointed out at that time the cow counties were in the south which was just the reverse of the situation today. Since the northern part of the state controlled both houses of the legislature they had little sympathy for the south and since most of the wealth of the southern counties was land and livestock it seemed to be natural for the legislature to impose confiscatory taxes on these ranches and their livestock. The governors of that time were very much opposed to the large ranchos of the south. In his annual message of January 7, 1851, Governor Peter Burnett said: "The beneficial effects of a system of direct taxation have already been seen in the increased impulse given to our agriculture during the past year. The large tracts of land have, in many cases, been subdivided and small portions sold to agriculturists, who have thus become permanent and prosperous residents." And Governor Bigler in his annual message stated: "Of what avail is it that our soil is the most productive and our climate admirably adapted to the culture of all the necessities and luxuries of life, if the vales and plains are but the roaming grounds and pastures for the unchecked herd? The true wealth of a prolific soil is to be found alone in the hardy and industrious hand which turns the rich sod with the ploughshare, prepares it for the rains of winter and which at harvest season reaps from fields of bending grain the rich recompense of toil."

In an attempt to protect themselves from this sort of thinking some of the most influential ranchers made an effort to separate the southern counties from the rest of the state and to organize them into a federal territory. The movement came to a head in February, 1859, when Andres Pico of Los Angeles introduced a joint resolution in the state assembly, calling for the withdrawal of the counties of San Luis

Obispo, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Diego from the state. Northern California, as a whole, assumed an apathetic attitude toward the loss of the five backward grazing counties, and both houses of the Legislature approved the bill. A popular vote in the seceding counties subsequently ratified the measure, but the controversy over slavery and the threatening cloud of civil war caused the bill to die in the federal congress. The disappointment of the southern landowners was soon forgotten because of the great depression in the early sixties.

Assessment and tax records also brought out the striking difference between the wealth of northern California and the comparative poverty of the southern counties. In 1855, for example, the total value of real and personal property in Los Angeles county was slightly over \$2,500,000; in the same year Sacramento county was assessed at approximately \$9,300,000; San Francisco at \$33,000,000; Santa Clara at \$5,000,000; Sonoma at \$4,000,000; and Yuba at \$5,000,000. The assessed valuation of the whole state for that year was \$95,007,440, so the wealth of Los Angeles county, the most important and populous of the southern counties constituted only an insignificant fraction of the state as a whole.

The cattlemen's greatest enemy, drought, entered the picture in a severe way in 1862. This, together with importations of eastern stock caused tremendous losses to the industry. This period is noted as one of the greatest depressions in California cattle history.

Completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 brought rapid settlement of the west, cattle movements were made easier and fence laws were inaugurated and enforced. Barbed wire was invented making it possible for farmers and the squatters to fence their lands away from the cattle barons. The windmill was also introduced, allowing for full utilization of certain dry areas. The barbed wire and the windmill were as important to the settlement of the west as the cotton gin was to the deep south.

The homestead law was instituted, also timber culture claims were available to land seekers. During this time the government gave rights of way to railroads. All these changes reduced the great free and open range area of California to some 30 million acres, and started a movement of crowding the cattle back to the hills. This

(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from Previous Page)

trend was stopped only recently by the introduction of irrigated pastures. It was during this period that Henry Miller, the butcher boy from Germany, rolled across the cattle scene and before he laid down his tools in 1914 had acquired over 1,000,000 acres of land and owned more than 100,000 head of cattle. Every hobo in the land was welcome at Miller's ranches for a handout. They referred to his big cattle camps as "the route of the dirty plate." This was Miller's insurance policy against fire and destruction of his large holdings.

Another great man that perhaps many of you knew was William Henry Moffat. The Moffat Cattle Company dates back to around 1860 when Henry Moffat, Billie's father, was buying cattle in California as well as in Oregon and Nevada and adjoining states. His offices were at 238 Kearny Street in San Francisco. His slaughter house in South San Francisco was one of the most prominent. The company is still in existence, though somewhat reduced from previous years. The large feed lot at Manteca was part of the huge operation. When William Henry Moffat died on January 1st of this year at the age of 87 the cattle industry lost one of its greatest men. Many cattlemen watched the moves of Mr. Moffat as a guide in conducting their own operations. Moffat owned and controlled enough cattle that he could exert great influence on the market and he often established the price of cattle by his buying in certain areas. It has been said that he was the last of the cattle barons, and I believe it is true. He leaves a son who has been active in the business and we all hope the Moffat Cattle Co. will continue for many years to come.

As the cattle were forced out of the valleys back to the hills and mountains it wasn't long until there wasn't any vacant land left and by 1880 the range lands were fully occupied.

From 1890 to the present time is usually spoken of as the "chapter of progress, science and education." It was during this period that much emphasis was placed on better breeding, improved feeding, proper disease control, development of irrigation, better marketing and range improvement in general.

Breed improvement started with the first Mexican cattle in California by crossing them with Durhams and shorthorns. The first Hereford cattle were introduced to the state about 1880 but it wasn't until the decade of the 1920's that cattlemen began

to use them extensively. They crossed Hereford bulls with their cow herds which were predominantly Durhams and the results were very satisfactory. They saved the best of the female calves for herd replacements so it wasn't long until their herds contained more Hereford blood than Durham. At the close of World War II the white face dominated the industry of the state as far as range cattle are concerned. Today the black Angus cattle are very popular and they are well suited for present-day methods. It has been found that a special hybrid vigor is obtained when breeds are crossed, so it is not uncommon to see cattlemen crossing shorthorns, Angus, Herefords and some of the other breeds as part of their regular breeding program.

The purebred cattle business has become a very substantial part of the industry. These people develop and provide the breeding stock for practically all the ranches, and they are responsible for the kind and quality of cattle we have today.

It was during this span of years that the practice of running steers until they were four or five years old was discontinued and cattle were marketed at an earlier age, making a more rapid turnover in the business and supplying more tender, delicious meat to the customer.

Supplemental feeding on the range and in feed lots was introduced and practiced. Cattle feeding has become one of the state's prominent industries and assures the consuming public of a constant supply of nutritious, wholesome beef at a price they can afford to pay. At this time cattle were selling on a buyers market and the demand for high quality beef was greater than the supply. Producers said, "The market is too particular, let them take what I have or go without." The market did neither; instead, well finished cattle for immediate slaughter were shipped into Los Angeles from Colorado at a premium on a market glutted with low-quality animals. Soon feed yards were built near Los Angeles, capable of handling 20,000 head and today they are found in every area of the state, some small and some large. On November 1, 1962 there were 993,000 head of cattle on feed in California feed lots, an all time high. California is the 2nd largest cattle feeding state in the nation, over 2,000,000 head passed through California feed lots in 1962.

Brush suppression on the ranges by controlled burning, bulldozing and rolling was introduced to increase the carrying capacity.

(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from Previous Page)

ity of these areas. Range fertilization, water development and reseeding were brought into practice and favored by the more progressive cattlemen.

At the present time the cattle business is one of California's leading industries and California ranks high in the nation in all phases of this industry. California has led all states for many years in the slaughter of cattle and calves. In 1961 there were 2,514,000 cattle, 443,500 calves slaughtered in this state. On that same date there were 4,232,000 head of cattle on ranches in California, this places our state ninth in the production of cattle which is quite high when you consider that there are so many large range states in the nation. The cattle population in the United States is approximately 100,000,000 head at the present time.

In spite of our huge cattle production we must import from other states at least 50 per cent of all the meat consumed here and as our human population continues to increase and the demand for beef goes up we will have to bring in even more. We are also importing beef from foreign countries, since most of it is coming from Australia and New Zealand it lands here at our ports on the West Coast and it is up to our distributors to see that there is an orderly distribution and marketing of this meat so there is a minimum of effect on our meat prices. In 1959 about 9 per cent of our production was imported from foreign countries. We are watching the developments in foreign countries, particularly the European Common Market, as undoubtedly these changes will have some noticeable affect on our industry here at home.

One of the greatest changes that has occurred in the cattle business during the past 40 years has been in the wide spread use of trucks. Prior to the use of trucks all cattle were driven to the nearest railroad and shipped by rail. Now the railroads are used only for long distance shipping and that is declining each year as trucks are faster and more convenient. They will pick up the cattle at your door and deliver them any place where there is a road.

I am sure that you will agree with me that the history of this business has been exciting and colorful and I am sure that there will be events and changes in the future that will be looked on as being just the same. The cattle business has always been important to our state and I am sure it will be for many years to come.

Historical Convention

The Fourth Annual Arizona Historical Convention was held in Tucson on March 15-16th and was well attended. Members of the Los Angeles Corral of The Westerners who were present are as follows: Paul Galleher, Don Perceval, Arthur Clark, Arthur Woodward, August Schatra. CMs present were Robert Mullin, Bert Fireman, Fred Rosenstock, Richard Mohr and John Gilchriese who was the convention co-ordinator. Many thanks to John Gilchriese who went all out to make our stay a pleasant and comfortable one.

Three excellent papers by members of the L.A. Corral were on the program, "The Military Telegraph Line 1872-1876" was read by Arthur Woodward in his usual able fashion. "Navajo Traders" by Don Perceval proved absorbing and interesting; and "Riding for the Old CO-BAR" by Earle Forrest was also well received, although Earle was unable to attend and we missed his presence. A delightful evening was also had at a cocktail party given by Dorothy McNamee of the Overland Bookshop, at her home where old friendships were resumed and new acquaintances made. The convention closed with a banquet, and the high spot of the evening was a profound and thought provoking talk by Frank Waters "Time, Space and the Hopis." Many and varied were the comments on this extraordinary talk, all of them praise worthy. Following his talk, a reception was held for Frank Waters. Next year, Phoenix. Save your pennies. AUGUST SCHATRA.

New Corresponding Members

Mr. Lynn R. Bailey, 4628 Toland Way, Los Angeles, California.

Dr. Raymond E. Lindgren, Long Beach State College, Long Beach 4, Calif.

CM Dr. Al Shumate has been elected Sublime Noble Grand Humbug of the Grand Council of E Clampus Vitus. Al is also President of the California Historical Society.

Ex-Sheriff Arturo Woodward is working on the restoration of ancient Tubac as an Arizona State Park, and the layout and erection of interpretive displays.

Ex-Sheriff Paul Bailey and wife have just returned from a tour around the world and commented there's no place like home, and as far as Asia is concerned he's seen it and you can have it.

A TREE, A ROPE, AND BILLY LE ROY

By
PHILIP J. RASCH

In a previous issue of this journal¹ we spoke briefly of Billy LeRoy, (Arthur Pond) a Colorado stage robber whom some writers have confused with Billy, the Kid Bonney of New Mexico fame. At the point we left him, (April 4, 1881) LeRoy had escaped from a train bearing him to condign punishment in the House of Correction at Detroit, Michigan. The sequel to his escape was unknown to the writer until very recently when he came across an item in the *Las Vegas Daily Optic*² announcing the highwayman and his brother had been lynched at Del Norte, Colorado. This led to a search of the Colorado newspapers for more detailed information. The story which emerged is as follows:

After regaining his freedom, Billy was successful in reaching the home of his father, at West Liberty, Iowa. The elder Pond gave him what money he had, \$17.50; and Billy beat his way back to Colorado.³

About 10 p.m. on May 18, 1881, the westbound stage was stopped by three road agents a few miles east of Clear Creek. One of their shots passed through the right thigh of Frank Bartlett, an engineer for the Denver and Rio Grande Railway, from whom they took \$100 in cash and a valuable gold watch. The other passengers were not molested, but the robbers took the mail bags and the treasure chest. The citizens of Del Norte offered a reward of \$900 for the highwaymen, to which the Railway added an additional \$500. Twenty-four hours after the robbery, eight reward hunters were hot on the trail.⁴

On the 19th, near Powder Horn station, Deputy United States Marshal L. M. Armstrong spotted a man on foot, carrying a rifle. Accompanied by J. P. Galloway and M. G. Frost, he quickly placed the suspect under arrest. The captive gave his name as Sam Potter, confessed that he had participated in the robbery, and said that one of his companions had gone to Lake City, while the other was getting supplies. Leaving Galloway in charge of the prisoner, Armstrong and Frost went down the creek. Shortly, they met a man carrying a load of foodstuffs on his back. Called upon to surrender, he dropped his pack and sprang for a clump of brush, but Armstrong put a bullet into his leg. After some argument, he came out and surrendered. To his captors' surprise, he identified himself as Billy LeRoy. A search of his pockets revealed Bart-

lett's one hundred dollars, while Potter had some checks.

The captives, who were believed to be brothers, were safely conveyed to the Del Norte jail, in spite of the attempt of a lynching party to intercept the posse. It was, however, not to be cheated of its prey—about midnight on the 22nd, a band of forty men, clad in linen dusters, took the sheriff and the three guards at the jail into custody. The prisoners were taken to a clump of cottonwoods a few minutes away and lynched.⁵ Potter said that a man who would go into such a business deserved hanging; LeRoy did not utter a syllable.

When the bodies were discovered the next morning, a placard was observed on LeRoy's back:

Road agents, bunko steerers, gamblers
and thieves beware.⁶
Better he should have stood in the jail-house.

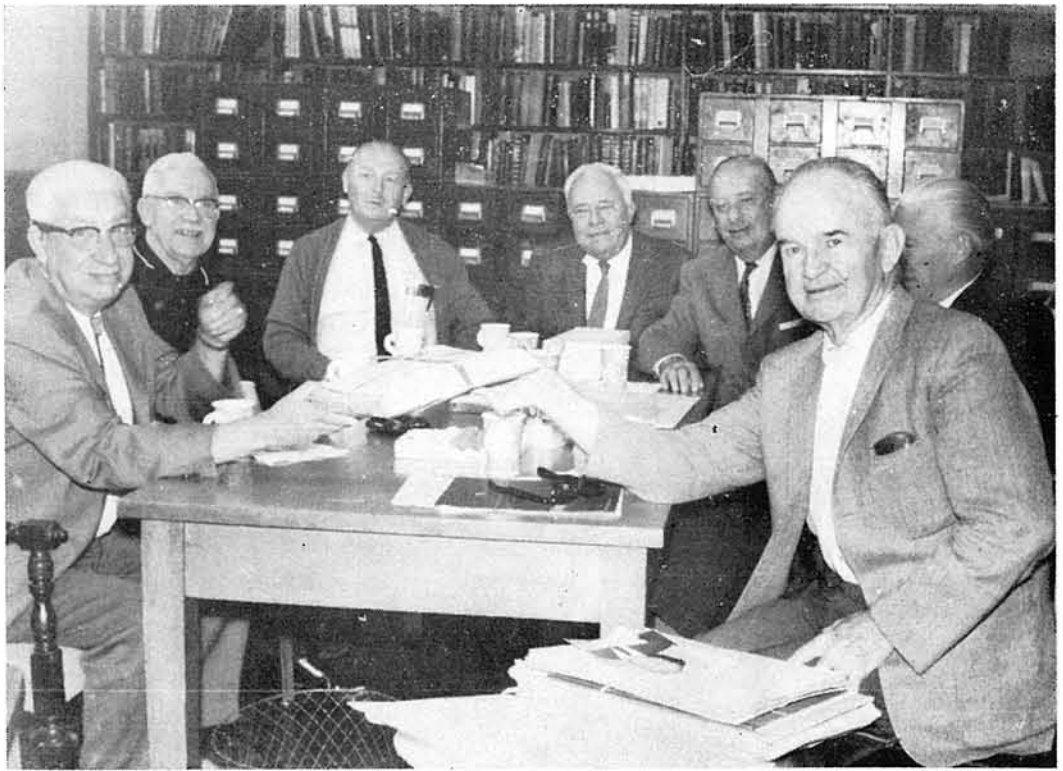
REFERENCES

1. Rasch, Phil., Re: Billy LeRoy. *Branding Iron*, No. 36, December, 1956.
2. *Las Vegas Daily Optic*, May 26, 1881.
3. *Denver Republican*, May 24, 1881.
4. *Rico Dolores News*, May 28, 1881.
5. *Denver Rocky Mountain News*, May 25, 1881.
6. *Dolores News*, *op. cit.*

Visits English Corral

Ex-Sheriff Paul Bailey's stopover in London, during his journey around the world, was pepped up and seasoned with a little corral dust from England. On May 11 he was invited to attend a meeting of the English Westerners Society, and found himself an honored guest of this unique organization. The meeting, held at the Palace Hotel, in London, turned out that night to have a real American flavor. Leland Case, one of the founders of the world-wide Westerners group, and a charter member of Chicago Corral, was the main speaker of the evening, with a talk on "The Black Hills," that was both informative and enthralling to our English cousins. Mr. Case was in Europe, doing research on the life of John Wesley for a forthcoming book.

In his own speaking to the English group, Paul extended the warm felicitations of Los Angeles Corral to our brother Westerners overseas, and they in turn, through him, passed on their good wishes to our group, and the hope that someday each of their members may find a way to visit Los Angeles Corral.



L. A. CORRAL LAUNCHES ANOTHER BRAND BOOK

Brand Book editor Eddie Edwards presenting the 1964 edition of *The Brand Book* all tied up with a little pink ribbon to Printer Homer Boelter and the publications committee composed of Homer, Paul Galleher, John Algar, George Fullerton, John Goodman, Don Meadows. Eddie made three promises upon accepting the responsibility of editing the book: 1 there would be no deficit; 2 the contents would be 100 per cent by Los Angeles Corral members, and a source book; 3 that it would be all wrapped up and ready for the printer by June 1st—all of which were accomplished by Old Death Valley Eddie. It just goes to show what can happen when you unload a lot responsibility upon a capable man.

A brief mention of a few of the articles to appear in the *Brand Book* will give you an idea of what a treasure the Los Angeles Corral will have this year. "The Captive Wars: Slave taking as a Source of the Navajo Wars" by Lynn Bailey; "Clarence Ellsworth:" a taped recording by Iron Eyes

Cody, and in addition fifty pages in sepia of the late artist's paintings as well as a large folding color picture by Clarence; "Liliukalani The Island Queen" by Earl Forrest; "California Fleet of 1859" by John Goodman; "Deadman's Island" by Mr. and Mrs. Everett G. Hager; "To Arizona by Sea 1850 to 1877" by Sheriff John Kemble; "Betwixt the Devil and the Deep" by George Koenig; "Juan Flores and the Manillas" by Don Meadows; "The Temecula Massacre" by Dr. Horace Parker; "New Lights on an Old Murder" by W. W. Robinson; "The Burro Prospector" by Fred Vaile; "The Bradshaw Trail" by Harold and Lucille Weight; "Lords and Tin" by Ray E. Lindgren; and "Desert Moods", a translation of a Spanish poem by Charlie Rudkin concludes the well written and well edited *Brand Book*. Each and every one of these articles will make your mouth water and it's a safe bet that this publication will be out of print inside of a couple of weeks after its initial release.

DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL . . .

ARCHEOLOGY OF THE JOHN H. KERR RESERVOIR BASIN, ROANOKE RIVER, VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA, by Carl F. Miller. Inter-Agency Archeology Salvage Program. River Basin Surveys Papers, No. 25. Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 182, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office; 1962, XVIII, 447 pp., 110 pl., 65 figs., 8 maps. Cloth, \$4.00.

Why should a Westerners Corral in California use its limited space to notice a book about a Virginia River valley?

The author, in preparation for his excellent study of the archeology of the Roanoke Valley covering a period stretching from historically recent times well into the Pleistocene era, reviews at length the development of scientific belief as to the age of ancient man in America.

Not too many years ago it was the general belief, supported, perhaps chiefly by Ales Hrdlicka, that man first reached this continent via the Aleutian Islands, or a land bridge in that region, about 20,000 years ago, in an extremely primitive state, and since that time had spread over the continent and developed the cultures found here.

The verification in 1926 of the find of artifacts (arrow points) associated with fossils of extinct animals at Folsom, New Mexico, convinced some that man had been contemporary with the last glacial epoch, but the argument that the animal species has survived longer than had been believed cast doubt on this theory. The evidence for Early Man has piled up since that time, and our own Southwest Museum and Mark Raymond Harrington (assisted lately by Ruth Simpson) have been among the most important contributors to the present knowledge, this in spite of the fact that Mark Harrington was subjected to ridicule for his conclusions about early man in south Nevada, published in the 20's and 30's.

Miller's review of the development of Early Man in America from Pleistocene times of necessity reviews most of the work of Dr. Harrington, from his earlier paper on Gypsum Cave (1931) to this latest, on Tule Springs (1961) which established a date nearly 25,000 years ago.

Miller's book is an excellent outline of the development of human occupation in the East, and were it not for our preoccu-

pation with things west of the Mississippi, would be given a much more extended notice than this.

C. N. RUDKIN.



A GUIDEBOOK TO THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS OF CALIFORNIA, by Russ Leadabrand. Los Angeles: Ward Ritchie Press, 1963.

The title of Russ Leadabrand's new book is all right as far as it goes; but, like its author, it is too modest in the indication of its accomplishments. For this little classic of the San Gabriels transcends a mere guidebookish purpose. It is enriched by historical narration, is seasoned with the tang of humor and sentiment and adventure, is replete with irresistible invitations to nostalgia.

For many years this reviewer, in common with thousands of other enthusiastic readers, has followed Russ Leadabrand's daily column in the Pasadena papers, his monthly "Let's Explore A By-way" series in *Westways*, and his special feature articles appearing in newspapers, magazine and periodicals. One compelling motive is reflected in everything he writes. This is his determination to give assistance to others by locating interesting places where they may go, and telling them how best to get there.

The *San Gabriel Mountain Guide* is about as serviceable a book as one would care to own. Those who carry it with them over rugged mountain slopes and into secluded canyons will find it indispensable. Of equal value, perhaps, is its appeal to those others who read to know of beckoning places they may never see. Then there are those who cherish a *memory* of the scenes described and, in the reading of this delightful book, are given opportunity to recreate and relive a happiness that once they knew. All readers will discover something that will cause the Leadabrand book to have a very personal meaning for them. A personal meaning—and a great usefulness.

This *Guide* may be accepted as authentic. It is certain to stimulate travel into the areas described; and it will make such travel more inviting, perhaps, than it has ever been before. Few know this mountain country as Russ Leadabrand knows it; few—if any—can write of it as he has written. His book—with its 103 informative pages, its helpful sketch map, and its 27 superb photographic plates—is a fortunate contribution to Californiana.

E. I. EDWARDS.

DESERT BONANZA: THE STORY OF EARLY RANDSBURG, MOJAVE DESERT MINING CAMP. By Marcia Rittenhouse Wynn. Glendale, California: The Arthur H. Clark Company. 1963. 275 pp., \$8.50.

Desert Bonanza is one of the few truly important books written on the subject of California deserts. What Chase and James are to the Colorado, the Wynn book is to the Mojave. With the exception of the unwieldy rash of Death Valley literature, and a few hurriedly-noted diary references to the region extending from the Colorado River to the Cajon Pass, no other comprehensive treatment of the Mojave is available.

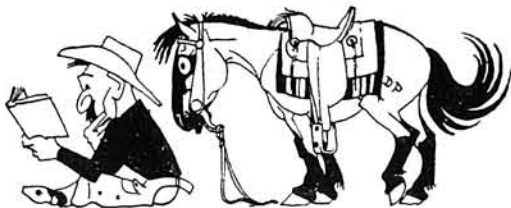
Desert Bonanza is not restricted in its coverage to the fascinating old mining town of Randsburg. The narrative includes discussion of many present and vanished towns of the Mojave: Atolia, Garlock, El Paso City, Johannesburg (Joberg), Goler, Red Mountain, the Searles Lake towns, and others.

The first edition of *Desert Bonanza* appeared in 1949, and shortly thereafter went out of print. For sometime it has been one of the most sought-after of all California desert items. It is with considerable enthusiasm that desert lovers and collectors of California material note the appearance of the revised edition. The publishers have produced an unusually attractive book, and one superior in quality and appearance to the scarce first. There are thirty-three illustrations, all of them beautifully reproduced. Helpful maps are provided, and a detailed index accompanies the text.

Desert Bonanza, while of recognized reference value, is perhaps most admired because of the charming style employed by its gifted author. And, beyond any doubt, she knows her subject. Her grandparents and her father were among the true pioneers of Randsburg, arriving on the scene (in 1896) only a few months after "Rand Camp" had its beginning. The author herself was born there and lived there for many years.

Westerners (and particularly those of the Los Angeles Corral) will cherish this little gem, selected at random from one of the chapters:

The mining-camp style of bathing is a large galvanized tub, or piece meal from a wash basin, and that 'little house out back' were the town's chief plumbing adventures. When the population increased so greatly during the big boom of



1896 the Citizens' Committee pronounced the solemn edict that thereafter, for the sake of sanitation, outdoor toilets, previously built on the ground, must have a five-or six-foot vault. Apparently the miners' diggings proclivities were concerned wholly in wresting gold from the ground, and did not extend to shoveling holes for the mere privilege of sitting on them."

A remarkable book. A remarkably perceptive author.

E. I. EDWARDS.



FIVE INTERESTING CATALOGUES

In the past few months the following catalogues were issued that should be of interest to collectors and bookmen alike.

In Los Angeles, Glen Dawson has issued a priced catalogue "California Authors" consisting of 1307 items. The term "California Authors" is defined very broadly to include authors who have lived in California or written about California. This catalogue is embellished with the portraits of many of the authors and sells for \$1.00 a copy in wrappers. 50 copies bound in cloth.

W. M. Morrison of Waco, Texas, has published "Texas Book Prices." This book was compiled of actual sales made through 185 catalogues by W. M. Morrison from 1952 to 1962. It is a list of 4000 items of Texiana and Texas including books, maps, autograph material, pamphlets, newspapers, paper money, magazines and journals. The authors are listed in alphabetical order, the book is sturdily bound in buckram with the Lone Star Emblem on cover and spine. The price is \$10.00.

Price Daniel Jr., of Waco, Texas, has issued catalogues numbers 15 and 16 on books, pamphlets and articles listed in "Raines Bibliography of Texas." This analysis lists approximately 25% of the material in Raines bibliography with a price guide and commentary on each item.

The popularity of these catalogues resulted in them being issued in a handsome, cloth bound book with slip case in a limited

(Continued on Next Page)

Down the Book Trail

(Continued from Previous Page)

edition of 100 numbered copies. A biography of Raines by Dorman H. Winfrey, director and librarian of Texas State Library is included. Price is \$10.00. Typography by Carl Hertzog.

Another Price Daniel Jr. catalogue number 19 is a bibliography featuring books printed and designed by Carl Hertzog. Covering a span of 40 years, this list is complete as to books and pamphlets, and other printed material of significance.

A special edition of this catalogue has been issued, bound in cloth and limited to 100 numbered and signed copies. It is nicely illustrated and has an article by Llerena Friend "Printer to the West" and includes an index of authors, titles and item numbers. Price \$5.00.

International Book Finders has issued catalogue number 112, "The Range Country," literature of the American cattle. This catalogue lists 860 items and is based on Ramon Adams *The Rampaging Herd* and reproduces the chapter "Range Life" from J. Frank Dobie's *Life and Literature of the Southwest*.

Loring Campbell, that ardent collector of Western Americana whose judgment is respected by collectors and bookmen alike, lists his favorite 101 books of the cattle industry. This fine readable list is worth while having and should accompany Louis Merrills' *Aristocrats of the Cow Country*, as they supplement each other. The catalogue is well printed but has frail wrappers. It really deserves a more permanent format. Price \$1.00

AUGUST SCHATRA.



FORTY MILES A DAY ON BEANS AND HAY, by Don Rickey, Jr. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1963. 382 pp. \$5.95.

The unsung hero of the American west is the common soldier of the American army, the enlisted man, the peon under the military heel. Hated in the pioneer settlements because he drank too much, and raised merry hell with barrooms, brothels, and the village belles; but screamed for with hysterical vehemence when the Indians drew near, or trouble brewed in any of the thousands of remote places where people and property were endangered. Every general, from the stupid Custer to the bumbling Howard, and even officers of lesser rank, have had their paean singers and apologists to make their name and

fame secure to history. No one, it seems, has felt any particular compulsion to write at length, or loudly, about the common army dog-face in the long and hectic Indian wars that tortured the nation from 1866 to 1891. No one, that is, until Don Rickey decided to do this needed book.

Through the labors, the heartache, the misery, and the overlooked heroism of the common soldier of the regular army, the American west was made secure, and law and order was made possible through a time of fright and chaos. Paid a mere pittance, uneducated, barely capable of scratching his name to the enlistment blank or pay roster, it has remained for the more literate officer of the army to make known whatever endurance or heroics these men possessed. And these officers never were guilty of slighting themselves in favor of the common soldier in whatever telling there was to do.

To find out what the average soldier of the post-Civil War frontier thought, Don Rickey asked over three hundred living veterans about their personal experiences while serving in the ranks. The result is this first documented account of the mass personality of the rank and file during the Indian Wars.

PAUL BAILEY.

Journada Return

A certain well known automobile manufacturer published an illustrated ad which read as follows: These are the trucks that showed how tough they are on the toughest run under the sun—Mexico's Baja (bah hah) Run over terrain that punished new engines, frames, suspension systems, all components . . . harder than you ever will . . . And that my friends, is the understatement of the month . . . you can call the scenery magnificent . . . grandiose . . . God forsaken . . . desolate . . . desert . . . etc., etc. anyway it's one hell of a lot of country . . . the last frontier, the same as it was a hundred years ago . . . the roads are in many places just goat trails. It's the last primitive area AND let's hope they keep it that way.

An occasional truck hauls gas drums and merchandise south from Tijuana and an infrequent truck hauls cattle from the south to Ensenada, and the advice of Burr Belden, who led this expedition, is do not attempt this trip without six or eight or even 10 ply tires and a four-wheel drive car. Al Ferris and Sid Platford, who were also on this expedition, echo this advice.