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NUMBER 66

A YANKEE SCHOOLMASTER IN CALIFORNIA

By DR. NICHOLAS C. POLOS

Each generation, it is agreed, writes its own history, for to each generation, the people and events of the past have a new and different significance. John Swett, whom Ernest Moore called "California's maker of the school system," is highly praised by some historians and yet completely neglected by others. The latter group of historians have overlooked the fact that the recorded achievements of great men "humanizes the past, while at the same time it enriches the present by showing us life with a vividness and completeness that few men experience in life itself." In a sense the story of John Swett is more than a simple biography, it is in reality the history of California's educational development.

John Swett was born in Pittsfield, New Hampshire on July 31, 1830, near the granite sentinels that guard Lake Winnepesaukee which the Indians rightly named the "Smile of the Great Spirit." He grew up in the environment of a New England home where conditions were "rigorous, demanding strict economy and studied frugality, and where children were brought up in the fear and admonition of the Lord of all."

The first John Swett came to the New World from Devonshire in 1642. He was not the first Devonshire man to come to the New World—"Drake he was a Devon man, 'an ruled the Devon Seas. . . ."

Thomas Rogers Swett, one of John Swett's ancestors, fought in the American Revolution under Captain Joseph Parson's command in a New Hampshire regiment. This influenced Swett to some extent, and all his life he was to be a Union man to the core. Later in his life when he had be-



JOHN SWETT
California Pioneer Educator

come an adopted Californian he openly admitted in a speech before the Union State Convention in Sacramento (1862):

In defining my political position, I am a Union man. I always have been one. I should be recreant to my ancestors if I were not, for my grandfather was a good Union man who shouldered his musket in the Revolutionary War; and his bones would rise before me, if every fiber in my body were not for the Union.

In his early youth John lived on the farm (the Drake-Swett Homestead), attended the "deestrick school," a red brick schoolhouse on "Great Hill," tended the cattle in the winter and worked on the

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THE BRANDING IRON

OF THE LOS ANGELES CORRAL OF
THE WESTERNERS

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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 Meetings

The June 20 meeting was held at Jean's French Restaurant and the speaker of the evening was Dr. Nicholas C. Polos and his subject was "John Swett: A Yankee School-teacher in California." We are very proud to include Dr. Polos' talk in this issue of the *Branding Iron*.

The July 20 meeting was held at the home of Ex-Sheriff Henry Clifford, and as usual Hank pulled off one of his surprises when he served luscious barbecued buffalo steaks, after which everybody exclaimed "Most Satisfactory." Glen Dawson presented his guest, Bob Metzdorf, Vice President of Parks Bernet Galleries, New York, and former Curator of the Yale University Library. Member Iron Eyes Cody introduced his party, bedecked in tribal costumes consisting of Tom Humphries (Hopi), Chief Little Eagle, Ronald Neenkema and Elman Banimtewa (Hopi). These boys entertained the Corral with various tribal dances for a full hour. Iron Eyes then brought back to life our old Companero Ernie Sutton, who passed away a year ago on this date, with a tape recording of many of Ernie's conversations.

The August 17 meeting was held at Casa Adobe, just below the Southwest Museum. Our host and past Sheriff Carl S. Dentzel furnished the Corral with delectable antelope steaks, marinated in wine and smothered in mushrooms. After this gourmet treat Carl gave one of his spellbinding and informative talks: "Russia's Challenging Role in Stimulating the Development of Western America." According to Carl, it was rumors of Russian activities and fears of Russian encroachment on the commerce of the coast of California that led to the decision of the King of Spain to embark upon an aggressive policy.

Carl also had as guests Dr. Bernard Fontana, ethnologist of the Arizona State Museum, and Bruce Bryan of the Southwest Museum. Visiting guests included Ray Allen Billington, Doyce B. Nunis Jr., and Manuel Sabin.

Bienvenido

At the May 27 meeting of the Chicago Corral of The Westerners a citation designed and emblazoned on parchment by Harley Lichtenberger, was presented by Sheriff Don Russell to Westerner Ray Allen Billington. It was inscribed as follows: "The Chicago Corral of The Westerners honors itself in conferring this citation on Ray Allen Billington in recognition of his untiring efforts in the preservation of the American West through research, teaching and writing."

Doctor Billington is the author of *Westward Expansion*, *The Far Western Frontier*, and numerous scholarly articles and contributions. His leadership among historians of the West was nationally recognized in 1961 when he was chosen temporary

president of a conference on Western History; and a year later was elected first president of the resulting Western History Association he helped to organize. Doctor Billington is currently Senior Research Associate at the Huntington Library, and we hope to see him often at the L.A. Corral.

A YANKEE SCHOOLMASTER IN CALIFORNIA

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farm in the summers for as little as thirty cents a day.

The early schools that young John attended were typical of the New England schools of the eighteen-thirties and forties. Here he learned to spell, read fluently, and write legibly. There was some history, geography, and elementary arithmetic, and areas such as music, drawing, and science were often neglected. Young John, however, was fortunate because his father, Eben Swett, a former schoolmaster often took him to the "Pittsfield Lyceum," where John heard the important issues of the day openly debated.

Young John's religious education was unusual in that he was spared the formal denominational training given to most New England boys. In writing about his religious background John Swett said:

My grandfather was a sturdy disbeliever in witches, ghosts, and devils, and to him and my father I owe a special debt of gratitude that my young life was not darkened by superstitious beliefs.

Swett's mother was a church member, but was never disturbed about theological metaphysics. His father was a religious man but would not subscribe to all the dogmas of the church. Grandfather Swett was a Universalist; and Grandmother Swett a Freewill Baptist. Grandfather French was a Calvin Baptist, and Grandmother French, a Congregationalist. It was his Grandmother French, who told young John when he was sick with a fever that he shouldn't be afraid to die since life was a vale of tears and it is better to die young than to live to be old. In later life Swett reminisced: "I remember that I thought I wanted to get well and would rather take the chances." Swett admits that in his younger years he was influenced by a series of tracts by William Ellery Channing, and although he attended the Congregational church, he considered himself a Unitarian. Later in life, when Swett became a central figure in California's educational scene he was often criticized for his views on religion and his attitude toward religion. Swett called this period of his life one of "border warfare in educa-

tion," but he made it plain where he stood in regard to religion and the free common schools of California. In the California controversy on sectarian aid Swett wrote:

Encourage free schools, and resolve that not one dollar of money appropriated to their support, no matter how raised, shall be appropriated to the sectarian school.

From 1844 to 1847 John Swett attended Pittsfield Academy, and then the Pembroke Academy. Later he taught at the Buck Street School near Pembroke, at "ten dollars a month and board." After teaching at the Randolph School, in Randolph, Massachusetts, where he enjoyed the privilege of attending lectures by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker, and E. P. Whipple, Swett enrolled at William Russell's Normal Institute at Reed's Ferry, near the city of Manchester. William Russell was the first editor of the *American Journal of Education* (1826-1829), and had been associated with Horace Mann. Russell was an enthusiastic supporter of public education, and it was from him that Swett received the inspiration and guidance which he acknowledged all his life.

The four winter terms in New England schools comprise all of Swett's teaching outside of California, with the exception of a part-time position in the preparatory department of Pembroke Academy during the fall term of 1850.

Armed with this limited experience plus his short period of professional training, Swett decided to go to California. Many of the historical sources state that Swett was lured by the financial gain to be found in the gold fields. This is not true. He had heard that "the clear, brick atmosphere seems to make a person strong enough to digest iron," and he had been in very poor health prior to the trip. Swett gives the real reason for his trip to California: "I decided to go to California in a sailing vessel, 'round the Horn,' hoping that a long sea voyage might improve my health and strengthen my eyes."

When he landed in San Francisco, that "Baghdad-by-the Bay," Swett carried ashore his few material possessions, and his intangible intellectual baggage—the influence of New England education and environment. Swett never lost touch with the educational ideals of his native state. In a sense he considered himself an advance agent, and educational salesman of

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the principles of New England education, and California, his adopted state, the beneficiary.

Speaking before the Sacramento Convention in November 1862, in support of his nomination for the Office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Swett said:

I am indebted for the commencement of my education to a little school house in the old Granite State; and whatever I am I owe it [*sic*] to that school system of New England. I am proud of it.

Swett was not the only pioneer in California educational circles that had a touch of the "Massachusetts public school heresy." The composition of the San Francisco Board of Education, for example, in 1853-54 was wholly of New Englanders. These new Californians never forgot that they had once been Yankees!

John Swett, the "Little Giant," (he was barely five feet seven inches) served the State of California for almost fifty-five years (1853-1905). During a great deal of this time a fluid and rapid changing economy brought many changes to California. California society was in constant flux. This condition left Swett free to explore alternate solutions. It is to his everlasting credit that he had the courage to try these alternatives. John Swett was not a "bird of passage," and he worked for many years to build that most cohesive of social institutions, the California school system.

In his long career as school administrator, Superintendent of Public Instruction in the State of California, city administrator of San Francisco, author, journalist, poet and educational statesman John Swett was active and persistent in keeping the needs of the school before the legislatures of California. He made his most important contributions during his State Superintendency. When he took office at the early age of thirty-two years, the educational pattern of California education had not yet been formed. The blueprint was incomplete. Andrew Jackson Moulder, Swett's predecessor in office, and a Southerner by birth had made a valiant attempt to improve the educational conditions in California during 1857 to 1862 period. Thus the stage was set for John Swett. He was to become the "former," of the California school system. There was little to reform up to 1862.

During his two terms as California Superintendent of Public Instruction (1862-1867), every phase of the law governing the schools of California received his studied attention, with the result that the entire California system was, to use Swett's own words, "quietly and peacefully revolutionized."

Swett was an accomplished orator, trained in the tradition of Quintilian. A. E. Winship, Boston editor of the *Journal of Education*, after one of Swett's speeches said:

He was capable of more fiery eloquence than any other educator I have ever heard, and I have heard most of them, and yet he never made any personal enemies by it.

He could not help laughing and joking with the fellows he had damned an hour before.

John Swett's 'dam' and laugh were twin brothers in any political fight, legislative or municipal.

John Swett was a nationalistic patriot, and as far as he was concerned the cause of education was the cause of patriotism in California. He believed that the schools were the forts of freedom, because, "under free government, public schools represent the wants, spirits, and ideals of a nation." He was convinced that unconditional loyalty for the country and the state was to be found only in those sections where free schools were most abundant—and where education was freest. Here again he expressed his strong Union ties and sympathies. In this respect he said:

South Carolina, true to her treasonable instincts, fires the signal gun of the rebellion . . . Mississippi where 'cotton is king' saves, above whiskey and bowie knives, one-fourth of a million for education. The rebellion is based on ignorance. The mad aristocrats of the South have inflamed the prejudices of an uneducated people until they have been driven into the fiery furnace of civil war.

Merle Curti in referring to Swett's loyalty to the Federal Government in the struggle with the Confederacy pointed out that "John Swett of California was the most single factor in weighting the scales on the sides of victory," in that state. There is little doubt that the firm loyalty of men

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like John Swett helped to strengthen the bonds of the indivisible nation.

The Civil War period was one of great development in California. As the Civil War Superintendent of Public Instruction, Swett argued that: "You will never make California union to the backbone until you have a school system so thorough that all the people shall be brought into the schools and thoroughly Americanized." He was quick to take advantage of the situation and the changes which the Civil War brought to California. In this regard P. T. Conmy argued that the great development in public education in California was due to two factors:

Namely (1) the continued battle which was conducted by Swett to establish the New England type school system, and (2) the sociological effect of the stimulus of the war on education.

As the Civil War came to a close Swett desired to see for himself the condition of state school housing and California education in general. This was in compliance with the Revised School Law of 1863. Besides his local visits, and trips to Stockton, Sacramento, Petaluma, and other areas, he made an educational junket to the "terra incognita" of Southern California in February 1865.

He came down south with some trepidation because Swett knew that Confederate sympathies were very strong in the Southland. During the early part of the Civil War a Confederate flag had waved undisturbed in Los Angeles, as well as in other nearby towns, the Union men in that section being largely in the minority. He travelled from Wilmington to Los Angeles, visited San Bernardino, went by long overland stage to Santa Barbara, and north to San Luis Obispo and finally to San Jose.

He found Los Angeles "basking in the warm sunshine at the foot of a picturesque range of mountains in all the lazy loveliness of a semi-tropical climate." He was not impressed with the city, and described it as a place "covered by shocking bad 'tiles,' . . ." He was less impressed with the educational progress of the area. Since there was wealth in the area he could see no reason for the extreme shortage of equipment. When describing the Los Angeles schools Swett said:

Los Angeles has two well-built brick school-houses, both furnished with school desks of a unique and antique pattern—a model of which ought to be sent to the Patent Office—admirably adjusted to twist the spines of growing girls, and break the backs and weary the legs of the sturdier boys.

He did find the schools in the San Gabriel District and in the vicinity of Wilmington, Phineas Banning's City, to be good, well-built, well-furnished and well-taught. He did not visit the El Monte District with its "lack of American citizens and superabundance of Dixie patriots," and here, once again Swett overtly revealed his strong Union leanings.

He called San Bernardino a "scattered village," and heatedly pointed out that the seats of the schoolhouses were the "roughest, meanest, rickety, broken-down looking substitutes for seats which ever disgraced a school-room, or a community pretending to be civilized."

His description of Santa Barbara was indeed a classical one. He called the town "an old centenarian under a shocking bad hat," and one of the schools "a libel on the town and a disgrace to the trustees." Slowly, John Swett was to realize that poor school conditions were prevalent, north and south. San Luis Obispo, for example, had a broken down schoolhouse that used empty claret boxes for seats; San Jose did not possess a school-house worthy of its prosperity and wealth, and even many a northern city did not live up to his educational expectations.

When Swett returned from his travels from foreign lands (Southern California), he immediately prepared recommendations for what he considered sorely needed legislation. In the 422 pages of his first biennial report Swett strongly recommended that the lack of progress in educational affairs left no alternative but to try and develop a system of education on a state basis. Fortunately, Swett was able to achieve this goal before he left office.

Swett's own description of his accomplishments for the State of California, boldly written, and given as a speech before the National Education Association, in Boston, in 1872, dramatically describes Swett's aggressive leadership. What is surprising about this speech is that Swett neglected to mention many of his accomplishments for which he is well known today. He was the moving force behind the

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establishment of the State Educational Society in California. Always an ardent champion of the school teacher Swett even used his poetry to espouse the cause of the teacher. In his "Random Rhymes for School Teachers by a Poor Ped," he wrote:

"As well suppose that a game of Euchre
Will fill your pockets with filthy lucre,
As think that teaching the city's scholars
Will line your pockets with silver dollars.
Mum is the word and nothing to say:
Live 'on faith' and expect no pay.

Swett was active in founding the *California Teacher*, issued August 1863. This was the forerunner of the present California Teachers' Association *Journal*. John Swett is known as the "God-father of the California Teachers' Association."

In his famous speech Swett in a high note of optimism exultantly exclaimed that he had "framed a school law; established free schools . . ." There is hardly room here to describe all the achievements of John Swett during his long service to California. He touched every phase of educational development in California. He was a builder; obsessed with what Emerson called on his trip to California, "the inflamed expectation haunting men."

Henry Barnard devoted ten pages in his *American Journal of Education* to a notice of the California School Law of 1866, which was the keystone for free public schools in this state, and stated: "Superintendent Swett has, in this noble contribution, laid our whole country under lasting obligation; . . ." Another writer calling California "the El Dorado of the Pacific" said that California's progress in education made it "necessary for older states to look well to their laurels."

John Swett, the "Horace Mann of California," had to wrestle with the same problems which plague us today: religion in the schools, sectarian aid, and the matter of segregation. He managed to manipulate the political and social environment of the Civil War in California in such a way that he was able, finally, to legalize his philosophy of education.

Many called him "the Yankee Schoolmaster in California," "the father of public education in California," but the true significance of Swett's contributions as an educational statesman cannot be found in any simple biography which oversimplifies the past, but must be found in the substantive meaning of the events of the his-

tory of education in California. Like Horace Mann, John Swett had been a great force in himself, and affected the past of California in such a way as to mold the pattern of the future of California's educational direction.

ED. NOTE:—On the day of the funeral (August 25, 1913) the schools generally throughout the State were closed out of respect for the man who had done so much to promote them during a half century of time . . . "It may be said of him more truly than any one else that he was the father of the State school system."

Corral Chips . . .

Dr. M. R. Harrington announces his book on the Delaware Indians, *Dikon Amongst the Lenapes*, published in 1938 is being republished by Rutgers University Press, and will be released this month.

Our Old Spelunker Ernie Hovard spent his vacation on Santa Cruz Island exploring ancient Indian caves and middens.

Dudley Gordon has just completed an article on the Charles Lummis home "El Alisal" for the National Park Service.

Ex-Sheriff Art Woodward will give a series of lectures on historic archaeology at the University of Arizona this coming winter.

Everett Hager was the Westerner who made arrangements for the L.A. Corral to be guests of the L.A. Harbor Department on a trip around the Harbor on the good ship *Angels Gate*, September 21.

Ex-Sheriff Paul Bailey is rewriting his epic *Sam Brannan* to be published by Doubleday, under tentative title *The Golden Trumpet*. His big novel on the Mormon cohabs, *For Time and Eternity*, will be published by Doubleday in February.

Our old Companero Lindley "Pinky" Bynum has written the introduction to Dr. Doyce B. Nunis' article "Josiah Belden" appearing in the *Pacific Historical Review*.

Russ A. Hickson of Hermosa Beach has pictures of the old Placerito Rancho for those interested in our old meeting place prior to its being consumed by fire in Fall of 1962.

The Annual Conference on the History of Western America to be held at Salt Lake October 17, 18 and 19 will find many Corral members in attendance.

Congratulations are in order for Holling C. Holling, who has been awarded the Lewis Carrol Award by the University of Michigan.



CHARLES FLETCHER LUMMIS



CHARLES M. RUSSELL

CHARLES F. LUMMIS...SOME LETTERS TO AND FROM

Collected by DUDLEY C. GORDON

Letters and photos courtesy of Southwest Museum

Los Angeles Corral member Dudley C. Gordon, associate professor of English at Los Angeles City College, is currently working on a biography of Charles Fletcher Lummis. While working on this project, Dudley discovered the following letters, written sixty years ago, when the Missions were in a state of decay.

Charles F. Lummis, author, editor, athlete, poet, historian, etc., etc., had warm friends among talented professionals in many fields of creative endeavor. Although not a painter himself, Lummis was a sincere friend of each of the following, and entertained all but three of them at his home, El Alisal—Frederic Remington, Thomas Moran, William Keith, Bert Phillips, Blanche Grant, William Henry Jackson, Ernest Thompson Seton, Ferdinand Lundgren, Alexander Harmer, Gerald Cassidy, William Lees Judson, Hanson Putchoff, the Wendts, the Wachtels, Gutzon Borglum, Carl Oscar Borg, Maynard Dixon and Edward Borein.

The following letters from Charles Russell are self-explanatory.

Los Angeles, Calif.
Nov. 18, 1903

To the Board of Directors,
Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce,
Gentlemen:

There are many signs that the time has come when we can reconstruct the Camino Real—or at least the three-fifths of it lying within the accepted boundaries of South-

ern California—If it is attempted under the right auspices and carried out with the proper combination of "business" and historic accuracy. It is an enormous undertaking, and these two are conditions precedent; but if they are met, the plan seems now feasible.

The organized historical movement which originated in this city and has here been developed by patient, constant and competent prosecution for ten years, is at last ready to bear fruit. It has reached such proportions—both in volume and solidity—that I believe it should be adopted, adapted and applied to a larger public utility. It has not only laid the necessary foundation substantially and well; it has created and crystallized public sentiment to such a degree that the superstructure is now practical.

The beginning of organized effort in these lines was made upward of ten years ago by Miss Tessa L. Kelso, then City Librarian. She founded a Society for the Preservation of the Missions; interested a goodly corps of well-known and zealous workers, and did very effective pioneering by conducting the first excursions to the Missions, making a historically priceless collection of lantern slides, and in general, awakening sentiment to the critical need of protective work. Her departure from this city arrested the movement only temporarily, the "goodwill" and the material assets of that society being bequeathed to

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an organization of wider scope (The Landmarks Club) incorporated to carry the work forward.

Almost contemporaneous with Miss Kelso's pioneering, born of it and inseparable from it, came Miss Anna B. Picher's long, patient and almost personal crusade for the Camino Real—a logical outcome and indivisible part of the Landmarks movement. It was Miss Picher's splendid share in the great general plan for the preservation and rehabilitation of the historic landmarks of California. . . .

Eight years ago, the Landmarks Club was organized as a medium for the forwarding of all such work, responsibly, effectively, and with that historic accuracy which all such enterprises demand. It is incorporated under the laws of this State to secure "the immediate preservation, from decay and vandalism, of the venerable Missions of Southern California; the safeguard and conservation of any other historic monuments, relics or landmarks in this area; and a general promotion of proper care of all such matters."

The Old Missions are as a class by far the most important historic remains in California; and to their conservation the Landmarks Club has bent its chief energies. How large the contract is, is perhaps best inferred from the fact that seven of the nine Missions in Southern California were going fast to decay; and that one building at one of them could not be replaced today for \$100,000.

But the greater the task, the more the need to perform it. The Landmarks Club has awakened, organized and expanded public interest by many illustrated lectures throughout Southern California; by personal appeal; and by the regular publication, every month for nearly eight years, of Landmarks literature. It has gathered its membership from every country of the civilized world and from every State in the Union. It has aroused the women's clubs not only of this State, but of the country—and at the National Federation held in this city in May, 1902, the Landmarks Club presented to that body the Mission work and the Camino Real, awakening an enthusiasm which is still operative. Furthermore, similar clubs, directly inspired by and modeled after, the Landmarks Club, have since been formed in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Wisconsin, and at last, this year, in San Francisco.

The Club now holds long leases on the

Missions of San Fernando, San Juan Capistrano and Pala; has made more repairs at each than were ever before or elsewhere given all the Missions in the State; has also done important work at the Missions of San Diego and San Luis Rey. Without resorting to questionable methods of raising money, it has already expended over \$7,000 in protective repairs. For one item, it has reroofed more than 60,000 square feet of Mission buildings. Had not this work been undertaken when it was, and prosecuted as it has been, the Missions of San Fernando, San Juan Capistrano, Pala and San Diego would be today hopeless ruins. Besides this, the Club has made successful campaigns to save the historic street-names of this city; to prevent the obliteration of the Plaza by a public market; and (within a few days) to preserve the old frescoes on the Plaza Church.

The Camino Real was the "King's Highway" from Mission to Mission. It had neither existence nor reason to exist, save as a road to the great establishments between which it ran. It was a rude trail. Its sole interest—whether to history or to the tourist—lies in its relation to the Missions. The fact that these buildings are now being preserved is the best reason, as well as the only practical one, for a rehabilitation of the road.

Interest in the Missions and their highway has been cultivated till it is now general and vital. The wide-spread and fast-growing Good Roads propaganda can easily be allied. The bicycle and automobile interests are powerful and can be enlisted. The enormous accession of tourist travel—all very much in want of amusement, and all finding little organized amusement now provided in Southern California—would make in this the most famous coaching road in America. The women's clubs, the farmers, and many other interests, can be rallied to this work for considerations sentimental, practical and patriotic.

Believing that it is time to regard the Camino Real no longer as a dream but as a practical matter to be worked out, and with its foundation already laid, I respectfully suggest that you appoint a committee from the Chamber to invite and confer with representatives of such organizations as you may deem most interested in this matter; and that such conference be invited to report to you. . . .

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1st, if it is deemed practicable to undertake now the building of the Camino Real, or of a part of it;

2nd, if so, to submit a general working plan as to how it should be undertaken, and how carried forward.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES F. LUMMIS,
President, The Landmarks Club

That Charles F. Lummis, Founder of the Southwest Museum, was the motivating force behind the movement to preserve the historic landmarks of Southern California is attested by the following:

Gentlemen:

Your petitioners, citizens and property-owners of this city, respectfully but earnestly protest against the granting of any franchise to lay street car tracks around the Plaza.

This historic square, the heart of Los Angeles in its Pueblo days and its early history as an American town, is a landmark which should be preserved unspoiled and for the public benefit, and not turned over to private interests to be disfigured, blockaded and rendered unattractive. We believe the public interest demands that it be kept free from encroachments and maintained accessible, open and attractive; not only for its historic associations, but as an ornament to the city, which has none too many ornaments, and in a part where it needs them best. In other words, we do not believe it should be surrendered or disfigured from its purposes as a park. If at present only the poor sit in it—and perhaps the poor need their share of park as much as the wealthy do—thousands of citizens and visitors who are not poor pass it every day, and are gratified by its little garden-spot just where it is most effective by contrast. In a city to which the tourist is certainly of some importance, the Plaza is a distinct asset. It is "Business" to keep all our attractions. In view of the intelligent public spirit now wakening in all parts of the United States for the preservation of historic places and the beautifying of cities, we urge that Los Angeles should not take a backward step.

Respectfully

The Landmarks Club,
CHARLES F. LUMMIS,
President

March 10, 1920

Charles F. Lummis

I have eaten and smoked in your camp and as our wild brothers would. I call you Friend. Time onley changes the out side of things. It scars the rock and snarles the tree but the heart inside is the same In your youth you loved wild things Time has taken them and given you much you dont want. Your body is here in a highly civilized land but your heart lives on the back trails that are grass grown or plowed under If the cogs of time would slip back seventy winters you wouldnt be long shedding to a brich clout and moccasens and insted of beeing holed up in a man made valley youd be trailing with a band of Navajoes headed for the buffalo range

I heap savvy you caus thaird be another white injun among Black feet Hunting hump backed cows

My brother when you come to my lodge the robe will be spred and the pipe lit for you I have said it

Your friend,

C. M. RUSSELL.

September 10, 1922

Chas F. Lumis

Friend Lummis we have just returned from the mountains where we have been for two months and found your litter here we hope we ore not to late if the clock is to late do not turn it in we shure hope Mrs. Lummis wins and if she does its a sinch thairl be a big noise ate the Lummis camp and wed like to be thair I suppose by this time Chewing Gum Bill Rodgers is back among the moovies. I wish you d been with us this summer the big hills had thair good clothes on but thair putting on thair winter garments now I hope some time soon you will come up I d like to show you my country if you would come with me about the middle of next month I d put you on a hoss again and show you places that still belong to God Im going with a hunting party over trails onley wide enough for hoofs I will tell you about it later

with best wishes to you and yours from the Russells

Your friend

C M RUSSELL

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DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL . . .

1540-1861. *MAPPING THE TRANSMISSISSIPPI WEST*, by Carl I. Wheat. From Civil War to the Geological Survey. San Francisco: The Institute of Historical Cartography: 1963. (Part 1) xx, 222 p., 50 tipped-in maps; (Part 2) [4], 223-437 p., 32 tipped-in maps: 10½ by 14½ in.: \$90.00. (See also *Branding Iron* Nos. 41, March 1958; 48, March 1959; 52, March 1960; 56, March 1961.)

The fourth volume of *Mapping the Transmississippi West* had left Carl Wheat with a stroke which slowed his work. Three more strokes have now left him with difficulties. Dale L. Morgan has assisted him. It cannot be shown just how much Dr. Morgan has helped, but Carl Wheat has given Dr. Morgan much assistance.

Volume 4 had ended with maps of 1860, and Wheat then suggested that "many newcomers joined them in the greatest exploration that had ever taken place" would extend the Transmississippi mapping well beyond the ending of the Civil War. Volume 5 ends with Chapter 50, describing the maps of the 1870's with the ending of the surveys, and the Biblio-cartography lists five maps shown as the 1880's.

Five chapters include the Civil War period, from Fort Sumter in 1861 to Appomattox Courthouse in 1865, with fewer maps than in the later chapters. The gold and silver found between 1861 in British Columbia, was not the first, as they were found in California, Colorado, Nevada, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, and largely paid for the war. Capt. Allen L. Anderson's map of 1864 was the most interesting war map of the Southwest. Military maps were produced after 1865. One, the Custer Battlefield of Lieut. Edward Maguire, is interesting to many a Custer buff.

The Pacific railroad surveys began back in the 1850's and of course goes on for many years. 1869 gives us the "gold spike" for the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads, but continues other roads. The British Railroad started in 1868, and others, such as the North Pacific and many more railroads, kept in progress.

Our northern and southern boundaries were finally mapped at the Texas-Mexico line and that of the Northwest for 1866.

California's Lake Bigler in 1865 was changed to the name, Lake Tahoe. Yosemite

was recognized as a state park in 1868, and turned over to the National Park Service in 1890, although National Park action really began in 1905.

The Yellowstone geyser area was found only in 1814 by William Clark, a trapper. Jedediah Smith gave the name to Sublette, and Bridger tells us much about it. Wheat gives us many very interesting maps of Yellowstone and the Firehole River.

New territories, Arizona '63, Idaho '63, Montana '64, and Wyoming '65, and new states, Kansas '61 and Nevada '64, show new maps.

H. H. Bancroft appears as publisher of many maps for years. Most of the mapping was done by William H. Knight, but a great deal of it by Dr. De Groot and E. E. Fine, who also appeared as their own publishers. After 1871 came "A. L. Bancroft, & Company," publishing the maps formerly sold by H. H. Bancroft, his father. Colton's map work, like that of many others, was privately printed. The firm of Rand McNally early mapped the Black Hills gold find. Its publishing was successful, and railroad maps and time tables were continued later. Finally they produced a great map of the country, which brought many revisions up until now.

Some 27 maps of the General Surveys of the various western states, plus general surveys of about a dozen of federal making, appear in many chapters. Furthermore, Wheeler, Hayden, Powell and Clarence King were other sources of great beauty and usefulness. A quarrel of the later 1870's and 1880's involved military men, congressmen, and others. The entire outcome, of the Department of the Interior's (1) Coast and Geodetic Survey, (2) United States Geological Survey, and (3) Land Office, and Powell as Director of the Bureau of American Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution, are all described by Dr. Wheat in several last pages of his very last chapter.

Dr. Wheat has included many, many valuable footnotes covering, as they do, the long and accurate account telling us the lives of many of the map makers and gives us much material beyond the maps themselves.

More than the other volumes, number Five furnishes a Biblio-cartography of 72 pages, describing some 300 maps. An Alphabetical Index of Maps lists more than


(Continued on Next Page)

1300 maps of the five volumes, "arranged by the maker's name (or other adopted designation)."

Now the six thick volumes are complete. Those Westerners who are now owners of the set may be really proud of the beautiful books. Edwin and Robert Grabhorn printed the first volume and designed the rest of the set, printed by Taylor and Taylor of San Francisco of volumes Two, Three, and Four; and by The James Printing Company of San Francisco of volumes Five, parts 1 and 2. Charles R. Wood and Associates made all of the map reproductions. There are 1000 copies of each.

But the works of the printers are only a trifle compared with the magnificent accomplishment of Carl I Wheat.

C. N. RUDKIN.

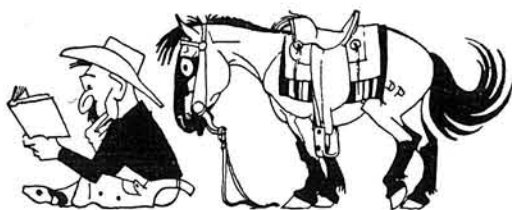
 ISLETA PAINTINGS, with introduction and commentary, by Elsie Clews Parsons. Edited by Esther S. Goldfrank. Smithsonian Institution; Washington, D.C.: 1962. Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 181. Xvi, 299 p.; royal 8vo.; Government Printing Office; \$10.00.

In the "47th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 1929-1930," Dr. Parsons published in 1932 "Isleta, New Mexico," pages 193 to 466, with minor assistance from Mrs. Goldfrank.

In 1936 an Isletan artist criticized the lack of illustrations in the text. This was forwarded to Dr. Parsons who felt curious about him and found him willing to paint, but for pay. He carried on this work for five years.


The paintings were completed in 1941, with the Indian's text and illustrations, and Dr. Parsons' finished the manuscript. Unfortunately she died in September, 1941, and the manuscript became the property of the American Philosophical Society, of Philadelphia. After 20 years this was given to the Bureau of American Ethnology. There were illustrations of 141 paintings, of full size. The expense of making his paintings in water color was a difficulty. The Bollingen Foundation granted to the Bureau twelve colored copies. The rest were reproduced in sepia.

The paintings of the chiefs, the clowns and the kachinas, of birth, curing and death, of church occasions, of racing, hunting and war, of crop protection, irrigation, planting and harvesting, and of fertility burlesque are of very great interest. There is a very valuable introduc-



tion together with the commentary supplied to each picture by the artist and by Dr. Parsons, with the editorial help of Mrs. Goldfrank. The artist's skillful treatment is surprising, especially since few of the paintings can be shown in full colors.

C. N. RUDKIN.

 ROSE, OR ROSE THORN? Three Women of Spanish California. Susann Bryant Dakin. The Friends of the Bancroft Library: MCMLXIII (1963). "Number 11 in the series of Keepsakes issued by The Friends of the Bancroft Library for its Members." XII, 60 p.: 8vo.; Designed and printed by Lawton Kennedy.

Mrs. Dakin's Keepsake has worked on a number of new manuscripts which are of great interest. She here gives stories of three Spanish women who have been long known but whose lives have been newly described.

The life of Doña Feliciana Arballo only tells of Friar Font's tale of Christmas, but other primary sources of manuscripts are available. Of course the details of her widowhood and her journey with her children to San Gabriel and to marry José María Pico are mostly retold by Bolton.

Mrs. Dakin tells of the marriage of Eulalia Fages and Governor Don Pedro in the typescript found in the Bancroft Library, by Desdemona Heinrich, a treasure entitled "Don Fages—the First Californian." Of course the general accounts of Father Palou and of Lapérouse are brought in the doings of Pedro and Eulalia, with the Heinrich MS, to make the story of great interest.

Mrs. Dakin's three stories of the women are good and well written, and especially suggest the newly found or newly written manuscripts from the Bancroft Library.

The physical beauty of the book is to be seen. The cover, title page and headings of the *Rosa de Castillo* and the attractive map end papers are drawn by Lois Stone. Lawton Kennedy's typesetting and the form of the book are very lovely. The "Friends" have here given us something really worth while.

C. N. RUDKIN.

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