



MARCH 1966

LOS ANGELES CORRAL

NUMBER 76

ECHOES OF DAYS GONE BY

By DON MEADOWS

Some old time Sheriffs of the Los Angeles Corral spun yarns about departed members during the January meeting at the Taix Cafe. Paul Galleher talked about Homer Britzman (1901-1953), a wealthy oil man who retired at the age of forty-four to pursue his interests in the west. Britz was the founder and first Sheriff of the Los Angeles Corral. He encouraged members to carry on research and write about their discoveries. He edited the first *Brand Book* in 1947. He collected Charlie Russell draw-

ings and sculptures, and published two volumes on the life and works of that great Western artist. He carried on a continuous warfare against the erroneous statements that appeared in pulp magazines, and he worked with other Corrals in uncovering the true picture of the Old West. Britz summed up what he thought a Westerner should be when he wrote:

"Westerners are motivated by a sincere desire to learn more on our own great
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HOMER BRITZMAN



ERNEST V. SUTTON



J. GREGG LAYNE



CLARENCE ELLSWORTH



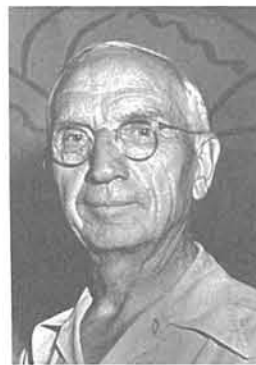
DR. FREDERICK W. HODGE



PERCY L. BONEBRAKE



ROBERT A. (BILLY) DODSON



FRANK A. SCHILLING

Photographs by Lonnie Hull

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The Branding Iron

OF THE LOS ANGELES CORRAL OF
THE WESTERNERS

Published Quarterly in
March, June, September, December

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THE BRANDING IRON solicits articles of 1500 words
or less, dealing with every phase of the Old West.
Contributions from members and friends welcomed.

Members Are Reminded: We Have Problems

All members are invited and welcome to the monthly dinner meetings, but because of the limited capacity, and the problems of arranging and seating, CMs and visitors are reminded that prior invitation and reservations are a necessity, as stated in the Range Rules.

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End of the Drive

Sheriff Erv Strong faced his posse for the last time at Taix's Restaurant, Wednesday evening December 8. Like any Trail Boss, he was glad the drive was over, but sorry to "break up the crew." Sheriff Erv faced some problems during the year, not the least of which was the stampede, wherein several mavericks were lost in the brush, and some still to be rounded up. But he was helped along the trail by a good crew. Eddie Edwards, as deputy, not only arranged a series of most excellent programs, but adopted an unusual manner of introduction—varied with every meeting. The year's speakers were most definitely outstanding.

A fine record of events was kept by Sid Platford, as Roundup Foreman and editor of the *Branding Iron*. In it he gave due recognition to membership achievement, and the many events which occurred during 1965. Likewise with all others who made up the crew, goes great credit for sharing honor and responsibility in making the year such a successful one.

At this final meeting, Don Perceval, the Corral's gifted artist from Santa Barbara, was on hand to see that Sheriff Erv was recipient of one of his coveted works of art—this time a watercolor drawing of a Navajo Water Hole. To Erv, from the Corral, went a standing ovation.

In accepting the Sheriff's badge, and with it the traditional emblem of authority—Percy Bonebrake's belly gun—Sheriff-elect Edwards pledged a two-plank platform: (1) a continuing effort to bring the Corral back to the purposes and objectives for which it was originally founded; (2) to make a genuine quest to discover latent talent, and to develop and encourage the potentialities of every member of the Corral.

"We don't know what a person can do, until he has a chance to do it," Eddie declared. "From now on even the Wranglers will be important persons. Their job is to build and maintain a friendly and workable bridge between the officers and the membership."

The dedication of the new officers, and the enthusiasm they are showing toward the heavy tasks ahead, bode well for the future of the Corral. By board meetings, hard work, and the delegation of responsibility to his capable crew, Sheriff Edwards hopes to breathe new life into the Corral. And the membership seems to be responding with a will.

ECHOES OF DAYS GONE BY

(Continued from Page 1)

West — its background, its people, its traditions and its history. Westerners know that in our own backyard, they have a rich heritage of fascinating fact and lore, well worth perpetuation. In a modest way, the Westerners are trying to stimulate this interest. While doing this purely as an avocation, they feel richly rewarded in the pleasure they acquire from their study and research. They neither expect, nor wish any other reward."

Reminiscences of Clarence Ellsworth (1885-1961) western artist and founding member of the L.A. Corral were recalled by Homer Boelter. Clarence was a serious student of the West who gained his intimate knowledge from contact and observation. He developed his artistic talent in the art department of the *Denver Post* and the *Rocky Mountain News*. His paintings not only brought him great fame but were regular contributions to the pages of Westerner publications. His faithful paintings of Indian life came from long hours of practice, in studying the horses and other animals at zoos and rodeos. He was a great archer. He relished a good joke, especially when played on himself. There is no finer legacy for the Westerners than the pleasure which flowed from the pen and brush of Clarence. A treasured possession of every early Sheriff of the L.A. Corral is a painting by Clarence, who, as a token of appreciation for a job well done, created some intimate sketch in oil that was appropriate to the man who was retiring.

Our 1953 Sheriff, Art Clark, had a fund of information to draw on in recounting the story of Dr. Fred Hodge (1864-1956), a self-educated genius in the fields of archeology, ethnology, authorship and research. His ninety-one years came to a close in 1956 after he had retired to his beloved Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he could be close to the Indians he loved so well. Long a member of the L.A. Corral, the Westerners were honored in 1956 to dedicate their *Brand Book* to this distinguished gentleman. His amazing career included being secretary of U.S. Geological Survey, Ethnologist-in-Charge, U.S. Bureau of Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, Editor Museum of American Indian, Heye Foundation, and Director of the Southwest Museum. Dr. Hodge was author of more than 200 articles, was the compiler of the *Handbook of the American Indian*. Drawing from his remarkable memory and experience he was a delightful conversation-

alist. Probably nothing brought him more pleasure than being elected Honorary Sheriff Emeritus of the L.A. Corral in 1950.

Ex-Sheriff Don Meadows recounted the unusual story of Percy Bonebrake (1878-1957), a member who wrote but little, but was famous as a raconteur and a source of accurate information on the West and the Los Angeles area. He was a banker's son who ran away from home to become a cowboy in preference to being a college student. He listened as a child when John C. Fremont talked to his father about the early days of California and the Mexican War. He was educated at the Harvard Military Academy in Los Angeles, but refused to extend his book learning in a higher institution. In Arizona he became a real cowpuncher, cowboy and wrangler. Later, as deputy United States Marshal in Arizona and New Mexico he saw some of the seamy side of the West. He traveled widely as a cattle buyer for the Cudahy Packing Company. He was honest, outspoken and a captivating companion.

Glen Dawson, Sheriff in 1959, told how Robert A. Dodson (1874-1959) made up for his little formal education with the romance and hard work so typical of a real Texas cowboy. Billy was a cowhand at 13, ran a crew of older men at 18 while running cattle drives from Texas to Kansas, and followed his Philippine campaign in the Spanish-American War with life as a rancher in New Mexico. With all of his rough exterior, from years in the saddle, Billy was a gentleman, churchman, and teetotaler. He came to Glendale in 1926 and enjoyed his early years in the Westerners. He was author of three articles in the *Brand Books*, typified in his writing of the Indian and trail driving days on the plains.

Ex-Sheriff George E. Fullerton stated that J. Gregg Layne (1885-1952) was a joy to know, very human, and loved books with a passion. He built up his first collection of Western Americana, which Mrs. E. L. Doheny purchased for U.S.C., then he amassed a second collection for U.C.L.A. His hobby was book hunting. He was a board member of the Southern California Historical Society for 25 years, and editor of its Quarterly for 15 years. He wrote 18 articles on overland trails for *Westways* and published 193 book reviews. An outspoken, positive man, Gregg was a consultant on Western Americana for U.C.L.A. Library, and also had a business career in

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Days Gone By

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scientific instruments. He spoke widely on books and their collecting, and was one of the most generous contributors to the Westerner publications. He lived in Pomona, but always was on the search for books, having collected probably more than any other man in the early day field.

Ex-Sheriff Bob Woods, co-writer with Britzman of the first *Brand Book*, recalled Ernest Sutton (1862-1950) as a salty and earthy friend of many occupations. From an early hard struggle as a farmer he worked as a tramp printer, and with Rand McNally, before he came to California in 1891. A strike put him out of work, so he bought a printing plant of his own. A fire put him out of business. Starting a new business he built up a very successful paper box printing establishment. A great collector of Indian lore and artifacts, he loved to dress up as an Indian for parties. He once served as Mayor of South Pasadena. "Ernie" is well remembered as a good companion.

Paul Bailey, our fourth Sheriff, felt that the most typical characteristic of Frank Schilling (1885-1964) were gentleness, kindness and self-effacement. Frank was a builder and engineer in Indiana and a member of the Adventurers Club. In California he took up the hobby of pottery and photography. His drawings and slides of the early California missions were outstanding. Among his *Brand Book* articles were: "Al Sieber, Chief Apache Scout" (1949); "Imperial Valley and Its Approaches" (1951); "Sequoia" (1953), and "Fort Apache," the "Story of a Frontier," with drawings of military posts (1961). Most of all, Paul recalled, Frank was a real Westerner, whose favorite nickname was Panchita Real.

Westerners Sid Platford, Walt Wheelock and Ex-Sheriff Don Meadows spent part of November and December wandering around in Baja California. With CM Burr Belden and two other desert rats they started for La Paz, but none got there. Burr broke a spindle joint near Bahia de los Angeles, and delayed progress for three days; Sid and friend burned out a bearing near Loreto, and waited more than a week for a part to be flown in from the States; and Walt and Don were marooned in the sand dunes near Viscaino Bay. The latter walked out for help, and when it was found, had to have their transportation hauled piggyback to Ensenada, three hundred miles away. Never discount the roads of Baja California.

Dr. Hafen Opens 1966 With Exceptional Talk

The first meeting of the new year, under the gavel of Sheriff Eddie Edwards, turned out to be a memorable one. Speaker of the evening was Dr. LeRoy Hafen, professor of history at Brigham Young University, former Colorado State Historian, and eminent Westerner. Deputy Sheriff Arthur Clark introduced the speaker with the remarks that Dr. Hafen had twice before occupied the L.A. Corral rostrum, had contributed to our *Brand Books*, and had edited 35 massive volumes of history for the Arthur H. Clark Company. And to B.Y.U., as alma mater, had recently gone the Hafen library, as gift of Dr. Hafen — the most complete library known on the Far West and the Rockies.

Dr. Hafen titled his paper "The North American Conference of Fur Traders." In this most scholarly talk, the speaker emphasized that the beaver trade, and the rendezvous period, while short in time were very important in history. It was this trade which found the paths, blazed the routes, furnished the guides, and set the nation on its path westward to destiny. Vividly he described the rendezvous itself where hides were traded for staples and whiskey by the lonely and fearless mountain men. It was a most interesting and informative talk, full of nostalgic remembrance of another day.

The talk was an auspicious beginning for the 1966 Corral year, and one that will indeed be hard to top. The delight with which it was received was indicated by the exciting question and answer period which followed.

At the same meeting, Sheriff Eddie Edwards introduced his appointive officers for the year, and "Oregon" Webb Jones was presented as the editor of *Brand Book* No. 13 — to be issued in 1967.

It seems like only yesterday, but it was fifteen years ago, that we gathered at the Redwood House near the corner of First and Broadway and heard LeRoy Hafen tell about the "Mountain Men Who Came To California." As it was at the meeting in January of this year, we carried away a lot of information that was distilled from years of research. And it was two months later, in April 1951, that Col. Tim McCoy talked about "Indian Sign Language." Tim now has his bed roll spread in Arizona, near the old Pete Kitchen Ranch, but we haven't forgotten the rare beef and sign talk that made that evening so memorable.

Oldtimer Edgar Carter Helps Us To Remember

The December meeting poignantly turned our hearts and thoughts to many of the great personalities who were once so important a part of Los Angeles Corral, and who now are gone from among us. And, in turning our thoughts back to these great Westerners, there is the reminder also that there are still old-timers in the Corral, whom age and distance have removed from our meeting circles, but whose interests and dreams are still with us. Because age inexorably takes its toll, it becomes more than ever a reason for us to remember and revere such names as Dr. Mark Harrington, Col. Charles Benton, Lee Shippey, Gen. Frank S. Ross, Edgar N. Carter, and others. To new members, the names of these old-timers may be only vaguely known, or maybe entirely unknown. But to older members, who remember these senior and beloved Westerners, they are very dearly remembered.

A very few Westerners were recipients this year of a Christmas card from our honorary member, Edgar N. Carter, who lives in Burlingame, California, is now 93 years of age, and whose very life and love is centered in Los Angeles Corral. To the card addressed to Ex-Sheriffs Paul Galleher and Arthur Clark, was penned a note apropos to all of us, and a very special reminder that this old-timer is still a remembered and important part of our circle.

"I have no business writing," he says, "because I don't see too clearly what I am writing. I'm again in the hospital, after a kinda nasty fall . . .

"But what I want to say is that my best wishes go to the best lot of fellows one could find anywhere — *The L.A. Westerners*. To each one and all of them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year . . .

"I seem to keep as young as ever in my mind and remembering apparatus, but my leg and ankle bones say — take it easy, old man! I'm still reading without glasses, but my one good eye (pretty good) begs me to go slow . . . This place has lots of fine nurses — good food, too. I can wait on myself pretty well, and can walk around and about by pushing a wheel chair before me.

"To the Corral, God bless you all. And the happiest wish of the season."

To Ed, we unitely say God bless you. And our happiest wish also. For it is so eternally good to be remembered.

Corral Chips . . .

The English Westerners' Society announce that they will be happy to send you a free sample of their *Brand Book* publication. If you have any specific choice of any particular number, they will endeavor to get it for you. Additional copies are 50 cents each. Write to George Williams, Secretary, 96B Stapleton Avenue, Speke, Liverpool, 24, England.

Welcome visitors at the January 6 meeting were. George Eckhardt, Ex-Sheriff of Tucson Corral; our Westerner friend from England, John Hawgood, Professor at the University of Birmingham; Charles Clark; George Geiger, of Long Beach; Bill Fink, Pasadena; and Jim Corbett.

Col. C. W. Hoffmann, in a letter addressed to the Corral, has asked that his status be changed from Regular Member to Corresponding Member. The distance between Santa Barbara and Los Angeles, making regular attendance difficult, is the main reason motivating Charlie's request.

Among the guests at the December meeting, were Bill Senter, who collects paintings; LeRoy Hafen, from Utah, observing his 77th birthday; and George Stephen Douglas, of Arizona, a partner of John Slaughter.

Sky Dunlap drove a leisurely roundtrip to Phoenix to cover the Arizona Newspapers Association for his *Editor & Publisher* magazine. Unhappily it coincided with our January dinner at Taix.

Bill Rasmussen of Orange, whose Dragon Bindery keeps him busy, delighted Christmas friends by printing a miniature booklet, 3 in. x 2½ in., *A Christmas Story*. Bill had 150 copies privately printed by Garden View Press in Tustin and 25 copies were case bound in imported leather.

Dan L. Thrapp, religion editor of the *Los Angeles Times*, spent long months on assignment at the Vatican to keep track of the many ecumenical conferences.

We are in receipt of the latest copy of *The Far-Westerner*, sprightly and interesting quarterly of the Stockton Corral of Westerners. Featured in this issue is a highly readable account of "J. Pitcher Spooner, Pioneer Stockton Photographer," by his grandson, Westerner Fred Spooner. The text is lovingly done, and is complete with rare photographs.

February Meet Features Homer H. Boelter

The usual fine fellowship and good food was climaxed at the February meeting by one of the finest programs ever enjoyed by Los Angeles Corral—another gem of a meeting to add to the amazing run of good programs. Ex-Sheriff and founder member Homer H. Boelter not only was speaker of the evening, but had thirteen of his Hopi Kachina paintings on the wall to illustrate and enhance his most thrilling and informative talk.

And, as if these thoroughly researched and artistically produced paintings were not enough background material, he brought along some of the actual native dolls. His wide knowledge of the subject and his great enthusiasm made Homer's remarks a vivid and happy experience to his attentive and thrilled audience. The pictures, he explained, are part of a set that will shortly be published on the Kachina Doll. For several years Homer has been working on these colorful renditions, but has promised one and all, including himself, that the immense job will be completed shortly.

Among the interesting things he told about the Hopis is that their culture dates far back, and their villages themselves to 1100 to 1150 A.D. In 1539 Friar Marcus Escobar attempted to Christianize the tribe. He was soon put to death for his trouble.

Later missionary efforts ended in the great Pueblo Revolt of 1680. And, to this date, no mission has been established in their villages. The term Hopi, Homer explains, means, "Peaceful one."

The dolls themselves, he made known, serves as a sort of messenger to the gods, and is identifiable by its peculiar facial mask.

CM Dr. Horace Parker, publisher and writer of note, is doing a full-length study of J. Ross Browne.

Ex-Sheriff Paul Bailey was one of the three judges, at Huntington Library, for the 1966 Western Books Exhibit, sponsored by the Rounce & Coffin Club. Represented this year was the largest field of entries in the history of this judging. Out of 150 beautiful books submitted, 24 were chosen for award of merit. The two other judges serving were Jack Werner Stauffacher, internationally famed book designer; and Adolph T. Brugger, dean of students at University of California, Riverside.

February Meeting Sidelights

At the February gathering at Taix, Sheriff Eddie Edwards announced that George Fullerton would serve as chairman of the new Range Rules Committee, and any suggestions for changes should go to George.

A letter was read from Honorary Member Lee Shippey, who lives in Del Mar, and is still blind. The message, typed in Braille, stated "Please tell the Westerners how much I miss them." Many an old-timer in the Corral echoes just how much we miss our dear and gentle Lee.

Brand Book Editor George Koenig made the happy report "I am now reading galleys, and I am sure it will be a Brand Book of which we can well be proud."

Among the visitors and guests at the meeting were Dr. John H. Urabec, and Everett and Harold Hager, guests of Everett Hager, and both sons. Russell Hixson and Carl Allen were guests of Ex-Sheriff Bert Olson.

As to the talk by Ex-Sheriff Homer H. Boelter, there were many quotable quotes. Iron Eyes Cody: "A most interesting presentation." Earle Forrest: "We have been very fortunate in hearing this. Homer is to be congratulated." Dr. Mark Harrington: "Once when I was at a Hopi village in the '30s, I was asked by the chief to pray—in a very special way. Pray, he said, that all people on earth may have enough to eat, and be happy."

Harvey Retired by Illness

Ex-Sheriff Harvey Johnson, recuperating from his bout with illness, has followed Sheriff Eddie Edwards in moving to Yucca Valley. His new address is 57460 Airway, and his mailing address is Box 608, Yucca Valley, California 92284. Harvey would be most happy to hear from his friends, and fellow rannies of Los Angeles Corral. His house is not difficult to locate. Just drive east through the business section of Yucca Valley to Victorville Road (known commonly as Old Woman Springs Road). Turn north about a mile to Paxton Road, at the base of the mountains. Turn east on Paxton for two blocks, to Airway. A block and a half north on Airway will bring you to Harvey's home—a street number conspicuously in front. Those unable to make this lovely trip to the desert should drop Dr. Harvey a line. He would appreciate it.

SOME VENTURA COUNTY RARITIES

By CHARLES F. OUTLAND

Any limited bibliographical list of rarities, no matter what the field, will reflect the personal whims and prejudices of the compiler. To avoid argument, it will be conceded that such is the case here. The rare pieces of Ventura Countyana discussed cover a broad range of subjects, and yet they all have several things in common: Either the subject matter, the author, or both, were the center of controversy; all were printed in pamphlet form; and all are exceedingly rare today. It might be added that they all cover some important phase of life during the infancy of a region that is now reputed to be the fastest growing in the state.

If the writer were asked to pick one work that stood above all others in importance to the history of the American period in Ventura County, it would have to be Benjamin Silliman's *A Description of the Recently Discovered Petroleum Region In California*. Here is the cornerstone for understanding one hundred years of Ventura County history. All paths, sooner or later, lead back to it. It is a strange paradox, therefore, to find Silliman's "Report" to have been based on salted samples, and to discover that the contents are atrociously inaccurate and the author's gullibility shamefully exposed.

Silliman, one of the greatest chemists of his day, became the target of charges by his contemporaries that ranged from incompetence to fraud. Historians are still trying to fathom the truth surrounding the salting of Silliman's samples and the California peregrinations of the chemist. Regardless of these interesting byways, it was Silliman's published report that brought Thomas R. Bard to the region to purchase hundreds of thousands of acres of land for what, it was hoped, would be a lucrative oil development for Thomas Scott and other eastern capitalists.

The failure of the venture turned Bard from oil to the wholesale disposal of land to settlers. If anyone doubts the historical impact that Bard made, let him ask but one question: Suppose that instead of Bard controlling this vast land area, it had fallen under the ownership of Thomas Wallace More; would the county have developed in the same orderly manner? The answer is obvious. Silliman, with all his faults, wrote the pamphlet that brought Bard, and indirectly launched a great regional empire.

If Silliman was the target of derision from his contemporaries, Stephen Bowers

must be tendered the longevity record for being the recipient of scorn, ridicule and contempt. Long after Bowers' death, David Banks Rogers (*Prehistoric Man of the Santa Barbara Coast*) referred to him as "a man void of all reverence." In the recent book, *Rock Painting of the Chumash*, Campbell Grant states of Bowers, "This ecclesiastical scavenger posed as a scientist to mask his wholesale looting."*

Bowers' propensities for digging into Indian graves is too well known to comment upon. For the sake of the record, however, it should be noted that all scholars did not agree with Rogers and Grant. No less a genius than the late John P. Harrington of Smithsonian Institution expressed shock and dismay when the writer called his attention to Rogers' comments. In a letter to the writer dated January 8, 1954, Harrington observed that Rogers "does not even try to see the good points in the man (Bowers)."

Again, on January 14, 1954, Harrington wrote, "I do wish he (Rogers) hadn't slammed Bowers, for whom I have always had the greatest respect."

Bowers' fascination for Indian artifacts was almost equalled by his writing ambitions, a fetishism in which he could indulge because of the numerous newspapers he owned and edited in the 1880's and 1890's. His subject matter ranged from the lost woman of San Nicholas Island to extinct monsters, but it was in the field of geology that the man must be given respect.

It has been stated by modern geologists that Bowers' *Notes On the Geology of Ventura County* (1889) could be used for textbook purposes today. He covered the field; but the historian will appreciate his treatment of the Piru mining district, in which he lists the mines, their ownership, quality of the ore, and types of milling equipment in use or contemplated. Even if all the "crimes" with which Bowers has been accused were true, his geological "Notes" of Ventura County would have to be considered as a valuable and durable contribution to the county.

In their haste to condemn Bowers' pot-hunting activities, modern writers have overlooked an indiscretion of almost equal proportions. At a time when he was publishing one of the Ventura newspapers,

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*Bowers' obituary stated that he received his M.A. Degree from Indiana State University and his Ph.D. from Willamette University of Oregon. The writer has never checked this information.

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Bowers had the temerity to question in public print the ethics of the local and state medical societies, an action that brought him into head on clash with the county's beloved pioneer physician, Dr. Cephas L. Bard.

Bard, possessed of one of the most brilliant minds ever to grace the county, was not one to open a frontal attack when a subtle flanking action would rout the foe. His strategy in this instance was devastating.

It was the practice at the time for the local Ventura gentry to meet each morning in the rear of the Pioneer Drug Store for an 1890 version of the "bull session." It was here that the latest purple humor was exchanged and started on its rounds of Main Street. Dr. Bard was one of the regular contributors to these gatherings; and the good doctor, taking advantage of the opportunity his forum offered, began making Stephen Bowers the butt of some of the choicest of off-color jokes. The stories soon spread around town, and shortly the stature of Bowers in the community had shriveled noticeably. A short time later he moved away, never to return.

Dr. Bard's writing inclinations were almost equal to Bowers', and his abilities far exceeded those of his contemporary. Some six separates of varying length are known to have been printed, the originals usually appearing in one of the medical journals of the day. The most important is entitled, *A Contribution To the History of Medicine In Southern California*.

Two printings of this remarkable treatise appeared in 1894, one of which was apparently subsidized by Dr. Bard. Only a single copy of this issue, which paginates 29 pages, is known to exist today. The other printing (34 pages) was put out by the Southern California Medical Society. Probably less than a dozen copies survive.

The basic theme of Bard's *Contributions* revolves around the Indian medical and surgical practices. There can be little question that the doctor obtained a substantial amount of his information from the last survivors of local tribes, a people whom he befriended and administered to free. His inquiring mind would have taken full advantage of these contacts to learn of the healing customs of this doomed race.

A Contribution To the History of Medicine was originally delivered as a speech before the Southern California Medical Society. Its contents ran the gauntlet of the practitioners art (Indian and Spanish style) from the native childbirth customs to the contents of their herbaceous medicine cab-

inet. Even the enema, with a detailed description of the necessary mechanical appurtenances, was not overlooked! Bard went so far as to trace the origins of this most obnoxious of all the nostrums in the practitioners kit. He gave full credit (or blame) to the ancient Egyptians, who got the idea from watching the ibis bird insert water into itself by utilizing its long beak and flexible neck. If true, the ibis is deserving of extinction (and the Egyptians of worse) for foisting this morale-shattering "cure" upon mankind.

Bard's *Contributions* is deserving of a better fate, certainly better than the obscurity it has today. For those searching for suitable reprint material, it is suggested that a good look be taken at this gem of Dr. Cephas L. Bard.

One of the more neglected areas of human endeavor in local history will be found in the field of religion. The early contributions of the Roman Catholic Church are well known, but the beginnings and growth of the various denominational branches of Protestantism have been badly overlooked. One of the rare and informative publications of early Ventura County in this field is entitled, *Address Delivered In West Saticoy Presbyterian Church — January 9th, 1898* by Hugh J. Furneaux.

It is necessary to read between the lines of the Furneaux treatise to grasp the true picture. In the early days there were not enough settlers to enable them to indulge in the luxury of denominationalism. Even one church stretched their meager resources, and usually this was in the form of a community church at which itinerant preachers of different beliefs aired their views when they happened to be available. With the rapid increase in population, schisms took place and new churches were started.

Furneaux' sermon deals with such a situation in Saticoy. The majority of the congregation was Presbyterian by faith or inclination, but the man with the money behind the pulpit was a Congregationist. (It must be conceded that there is nothing unique in the plot!) Mr. Moneybags is identified only as a "Mr. R." but there can be no question that he was in fact, W. D. F. Richards, one of the five commissioners to organize Ventura County.

At the end of the Furneaux sermon is printed a signed petition addressed to the Presbytery in Santa Barbara requesting that their names be withdrawn from the Saticoy Church. The writer has never been able to find anyone who remembers or heard of this incident. Only a single surviving copy

of Furneaux' address gives the local historian any record of the odd affair.

County arguments come and go, but one will live on as long as there are curious historians to question the record — the murder of T. W. More of the Sespe and the subsequent trials of Frank Sprague and others accused. Although this case was covered prodigiously in the various mug books of the county, surprisingly little qualified research and writing has ever been devoted to it. When some future scholar does the inevitable and thoroughly investigates the murder and trials, one of his most important sources will be L. C. Granger's *Reminiscences of the Trial of F. A. Sprague and Others Under Indictment For the Murder of T. W. More*.

Granger was associated with the prosecution, a fact that any researcher must bear in mind; and his reminiscences are highly prejudiced. The publication is one of the rarest and most important to the county's history, in spite of the slanted views of the author.

Another pamphlet concerning this same case is *The Pardoning Power* a paper read before the Pacific Coast Annual Conferences of Charities held in San Francisco, December 7 to 10, 1886, by the Rev. W. H. Hill. The relation of the Hill to the More-Sprague case is more by timing and inference than by expression.

Some publications of Ventura County interest are so rare that one or two copies are known to exist; and, in one instance, an important printing appears to have disappeared from the historical shelves. The latter, *Mining Laws and Regulations of the Sespe Petroleum Mining District, Ventura County, State of California*, has been seen by the writer, but in such a dilapidated form that no precise bibliographical noting was possible. It was found among several ruined treasures in the cornerstone of the Santa Paula Academy (1889) which had been protected from time and moisture by a mere shoebox! The contents had decayed through the years and congealed into one soggy mass of pulp. It is possible a copy of the *Mining Laws* may turn up in the Bard papers recently acquired by the Huntington Library.

By an interesting coincidence another rarity concerns this same academy, which was the predecessor of the present Santa Paula High School. In 1890 was issued a *Catalogue of Santa Paula Academy*, an interesting and important early educational brochure. Two copies are known today.

The word "rare" must always be considered as a relative term. If we were to

peruse all the publications that are now difficult to secure at any price, the list would be lengthy. Such works as J. M. Sharp's *Early Recollections* (1931); W. E. Youle's *Sixty Three Years In the Oil Fields* (1926); Mrs. W. W. Orcutt's *Memorabilia of William Warren Orcutt* (1945); and Louis Drapeau's very beautiful *Legends of the Matilija* (1951) were all printed in sufficient numbers to preclude the use of any term less conservative than "scarce." Nor should omissions of some favorite in this short dissertation be construed as prejudice against, or ignorance of, a rare or scarce work. They are too numerous to include here. The great expansion and growth of Ventura County, however, must soon justify a formal listing and noting of her bibliographical heritage.

From the Mailbag . . .

Dear Roundup Foreman:

This morning when I put in my collection, the last issue of *The Branding Iron*. I remark that one issue, the No. 73, was missing. I don't received the last June issue. I desire to keep as complete as possible my collection which is in good place in my library.

In your publication Membership Directory I founded a mistake. My name is not in the list. I don't know why. I receive the *Branding Iron* and I have send my subscription. It is not nice for me because I am proud to be in L.A. Corral.

The funny thing is that you put in the French Corral who disappear few months maybe few years ago. The only group now in France is The Paris Western Club, 7 Rue des Ternes, Paris, XVII. Now in France we have a Western Magazine. It is a monthly, and on 32 pages. I send you copies.

Au revoir cher ami Westerner.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE FRONVAL

82, Rue la Fontaine, Paris (16).

P.S. What news for the Brand Book? How many it cost? I want to have it and make reservation to Paul in Glendale. G.F.

Westerner Walt Wheelock and co-author Pat Adler have rescued a minor, but important, bit of lost history in *Walker's R.R. Routes — 1853*. Long a subject of confusion the routes have at last been determined by the use of old documents and contemporary accounts. This hard back book, with maps and illustrations, is the eighteenth publication of La Siesta Press, which Walt also owns. He will sell you a copy of the book for \$4.50.

DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL . . .

BAJA CALIFORNIA TRAVEL SERIES, Numbers 2 and 3; Dawson's Book Shop, Los Angeles, California, 1965. 5½ x 8½ in.; bound; 600 copies of each; Grant Dahlstrom at The Castle Press, Pasadena; \$6.00 each to subscribers.

NO. 2 LOWER CALIFORNIA FRONTIER, ARTICLES FROM THE SAN DIEGO *Union*, 1870, edited by Florence C. Shippek. 72 p., map folded at the back.

"The *San Diego Union*, in the spring of 1870, ran a series of nine articles describing the prospects of Lower California: the land, land grants, land title problems, water, people, mines, cattle and agriculture. The basic source of information for the series was a report made to the government of Mexico in 1861 by José Matias Moreno, Commissioner of the Government and subprefect of La Frontera, Northern District of Lower California . . . J. Ross Browne was a supplemental source of information . . . The Mission Records, the Railroad Survey reports, as well as information from some local friends were to augment the Moreno report. One particular 'friend,' while not named by the editor in 1870, can now be identified as Judge Benjamin Hayes." The author of the series seems to have been, "probably," Frederick A. Taylor, who managed the paper from January 1 until May 12, 1870. After six articles were written until May 5, three more articles seem to have been used.

The "Introduction" can be used interestingly, but the articles themselves are both entertaining and useful. Many brief bits of information are cited, usually by naming tracts, missions, patents, mining areas, fishing spots (commercial), and farming land. "The Colorado River and the Gulf" are a very interesting part, covering several bits about Articles 2 and 3. The river and gulf, Angel's Island, Fort of Libertad, Port of San Felipe de Jesus, and the many land and fishing grants along the gulf coast make interesting reading. One notes further and more particularly the west coast, San Vicente Mission, and what is called "Across the Desert." I cannot enumerate all the especial areas brought out but some personal names should be discussed, with great interest: Father Mariano Apolinario and his mild and humane treatment of Indians, and Don Feliciano Esparza, a favorite of Governor Castro. Esparza occupies all of Article No. 8. José Yves Limantour

tries to acquire a great amount of land property both in Baja and Upper California.

Westerners, I cannot write about all nine of the articles — but you should read them. They are all good.

NO. 3 THE CATTLE DRIVES OF JOSEPH E. PLEASANTS FROM BAJA CALIFORNIA IN 1867 AND 1868, edited by Don Meadows. 36 p.; 3 plates left in.

"The Cattle Drives of Joseph E. Pleasants" is only a portion of this little book. The "Introduction" by Don Meadows is actually the life of Pleasants, from his journey as a boy to the California gold fields, then to his father's more familiar land holdings; his education and Wolfskill's home, his management of the Yorba land acquired by Wolfskill. Pleasants was put in control of the cattle of Rancho Lomas de Santiago, feeding them along the Mojave River. Pleasants returned from the desert and tried to lease Downey land owned by Lemuel Carpenter, father of Mary Refugio. But rain had come and the San Gabriel River had turned into a torrent. In January 1867, only a few tillable acres were left. Then he made two successful cattle drives, and felt confident that he could support a wife. He became a Catholic and married Mary Refugio.

Pleasants still worked for Wolfskill in the Santa Ana Mountains. In the upper end of the Aliso Canyon he had learned that acquirement could be had for entry. Here he cleared a site, and built a small house, but the land was re-surveyed as a Mexican grant, and later he surveyed along Santiago Creek in 1874. The Pleasants home later became the property of Madame Modjeska.

But here begins Joseph E. Pleasants' bringing of cattle from Lower California in the '60s. In the 1920s Phil Townsend Hanna, editor of *Touring Topics*, asked Mr. Pleasants for his memoirs. Six articles were written, five only of them published. The sixth dealt with the cattle drives of 1867-1868, and is printed here.

Pleasants describes his first journey to the San Pedro Martir Mountains *via* Tia Juana and San Telmo. There he did well with his cattle, returning to Los Nietos in about twenty days, much entertained by the amusing evening rests and a certain vaquero.

The following year he repeated his drive, this time *via* Ensenada to San Telmo, where he found enough good cattle. On his return to Ensenada he visited the home of friends, whose oldest brother was at San Francisco and might have been ready to sell some cattle. Accordingly Pleasants made a special

trip to Loreto, a long hard journey, but full of interest. Pleasants here found Baja California "a wonderfully interesting country, in spite of the desert character of much of the land." And so is this also "a wonderfully interesting" story of Joseph Pleasants' cattle drives.

— C. N. RUDKIN.



THE HORSE IN AMERICA, by Robert West Howard. New York: Follett Publishing Company. 298 pp. \$6.95.

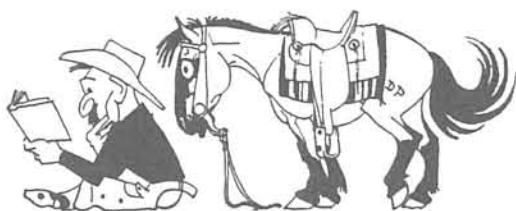
Here is new kind of book about that constant conversation piece — the horse. In this, his latest book, Westerner Robert West Howard has used the horse to plow a new furrow across the land. Likely it will shake a few effusive old-timers to learn that the first cowboys were eastern, and the first herding took place in New England, and that the horse existed on the high plains of Wyoming 55 million years ago. But the author seems to have his facts well in hand, and I'm not horseman enough to do any jousting with him on these points.

Personally, I think this is a tremendous and important book — and if it changes my thinking, and burrs up my saddle-blanket — well, that's what books are for! After reading through its fascinating memorabilia, I said "to hell with the arguments and nit-picking — this is a book to enjoy — and a book for Westerners." For instance, where else can one find the story of old Blind Tom, the horse who is reputed to have hauled every rail of Union Pacific's 1,100 miles into position for clampdown and spiking. That, in spite of the automobile, the horse population of America is on the rise — and more than doubled from 1959 to 1964?

Howard, however, achieves far more in this book than a collection of pat facts and titillating goodies. He succeeds admirably in placing the horse in the proper frame of American history — from prehistoric Eohippis, burden beasts, stage-coach runners, Indian ponies, down to quarter-horses and fast milers. He even has a chapter on hobby horses — and it isn't what you think.

Readers who use books, rather than gape at them, will thank the publishers for turning out this valuable tome in a size that will fit the shelf perpendicular rather than horizontal. It is, in spite of its functional size, literally loaded with illustrations that will delight every Westerner, and which alone are worth the price of the book. But, more than that, this book is readable, informative, and of great importance. Highly recommended.

— PAUL BAILEY.



BAJA CALIFORNIA OVERLAND, by L. Burr Belden. La Siesta Press, Glendale, 1965, 12mo., 64 p., illus., stiff illustrated wrappers, \$1.95.

CM Burr Belden gives us an attractive, interesting and up to date account of his travels down Lower California. Burr has covered his intensive study of land and life offered by U. of California, and the field trips, especially at La Paz and nearby.

Only six cars carried fourteen people by automobile to La Paz, but about a hundred used either by airplane or by one or two cars to Mazatlan and by ferry, for a Christmas holiday and for study.

It is best for us to hear of the auto road to La Paz. Belden describes the partly paved roads from Tijuana to Ensenada and from Mexicali to San Felipe. From either of these points the road gets steadily worse, then again better for the last 200 miles south of La Paz.

Belden tells us much about the road and the things on it, such as elephant trees, desert cactus "trees," date orchards, the missions, some in good condition, some mere ruins.

La Paz is now a very interesting town, developed by the Ruffos. A good hotel, a fleet of sport fishing cruisers, carrying ships, and a large ferry operating between La Paz and Mazatlan. Its outskirts reach from San Lucas to Mulegé and to Loreto make it fairly good roads and worthwhile seeing them.

Two dozen full pages of photos and maps with the text on botany, geography, missions, and ghost towns make the little book something to be kept.

— C. N. RUDKIN.



For many years the "mug book," those heavy tomes that were fifty per-cent history and fifty per-cent family adulation, were looked upon as vanity publications and not worth collecting. As time passes these old country histories are held in deep respect and are eagerly acquired by bibliophiles. The first one was published in 1858 in Trinity County; the first in southern California was Thompson and West's *History of Los Angeles County*, which appeared in

(Continued on Next Page)

Down the Book Trail

(Continued from Previous Page)

1880. Many others have appeared since the first publication. So valuable are their contents that many of the early ones have been reprinted. In 1883 Wallace W. Elliott published the *History of San Bernardino and San Diego Counties*. (There was no Riverside nor Imperial Counties then.) The statistics, text and illustrations are of so great importance that the Riverside Museum Associates have re-published by offset printing the complete contents of the original work. Quarto in size and 204 pages in length it is a beautiful reproduction of this rare and valuable book. CM Harry W. Lawton of Riverside has added an up to date introduction which is an historical contribution in itself. Westerners will find the book of value because it covers the transition period between the open range and the coming of city streets. The price is \$12.00 and the book is available at 795 spruce Street, Riverside, Calif.



MINES OF THE HIGH DESERT, by Ronald Dean Miller. La Siesta Press, Glendale, Calif., 1965. 5½ x 8½ in.; 63 p., illus.; \$1.95, paperback.

Ronald Miller, CM, has described the mining of the Joshua Tree National Monument and the new and old Dale areas north and east of there. The late Westerner, Fred Vaile, mined in southern Nevada and eastern California from about 1909 until about 1919, after which he began accountancy, specializing in oil and mining taxation. Fred wrote no books about the high desert mines, but he recorded oral history on electronic tapes. With Vaile's records, and Miller's study of the area a great deal is told us about the mining era during its greatest activity, from 1900s to about 1917.

Miller has perhaps given us some of the finest stories about the "high desert" mining; telling us about Virginia Dale, Supply, O.K., and other interesting mines, as well the histories of Dale, Old Dale, and New Dale, mining towns. He also deals with the early McHaney gang, stealing horses, cattle, and mines, and with the honest freighters, who were one of the greatest needs of the area.

The twenty-four well made illustrations, mostly full pages, are by the author, Fred Vaile, by Walt Wheelock, publisher, and by the National Park Service.

— C. N. RUDKIN.

DESERT SANCTUARY, narrated by E. I. Edwards, illustrated by Homer H. Boelter, published by Homer H. Boelter Lithography. 7 x 8½ in., 16 pages, colored wrapper reading "Christmas Greetings Mr. and Mrs. Homer H. Boelter."

This is one of the many beautiful Christmas booklets published by Ex-Sheriff Homer Boelter, but this time with his own very lovely pictures. At least half of each page is covered with his drawings of the real desert and ghost towns.

Eddie, now Sheriff for 1966, has also enhanced this very lovely booklet, this time with a few paragraphs which tell us how he has really known his desert, and what they mean to Christ and to His meditation, and to our prayers.

— C. N. RUDKIN.



THE BLAZED TRAIL OF ANTOINE LEROUX, by Forbes Parkhill. Los Angeles; Westernlore Press; 1965; 12mo., 257 p; bound. Great West and Indian Series, No. 30. \$7.50.

Leroux was one of the few best known "mountain men." He was educated in St. Louis, of French ancestry save for one Spanish grandmother, who was captured by the Pawnees, then married to a French trader. He found experience with William Ashley, then shifted to the Mexican area with Antoine Robidoux, trapping up the Rio Grande and down the Gila. He soon acquired an excellent reputation, a good guide, not a drunkard and, it seems, not a "tent squaw."

He served as a best guide for some of those who needed him, Cooke and the Mormons, Beale, and Whittlesey with the Utes. Then he became a delegate to the attempted Territory of New Mexico in 1850, later established in 1852. He was chief guide for Major Guier's punitive expedition against the Apaches who had attacked a merchant, J. M. White and his wife and child.

Leroux filed in 1857 for the Los Luceros Grant, now the Antoine Leroux Grant, which was not successfully completed for a further fifty years. He died June 30, 1861, sixty years old.

Dr. Parkhill gives us a remarkable account. I have had to omit many tales of Leroux, but also such as those of the family of Villalpando attacked by Comanches in 1748, Antoine Robidoux, Kit Carson, F. X. Aubry, Pauline Weaver, "Parson Bill" Williams, Dick Wootton, Autobees, José Savedra, Simeon Turley, Fremont, Charles Bent, and many others worth while reading. But in addition he gives us a readable book of the life of Antoine Leroux.

— C. N. RUDKIN.