



NUMBER 89

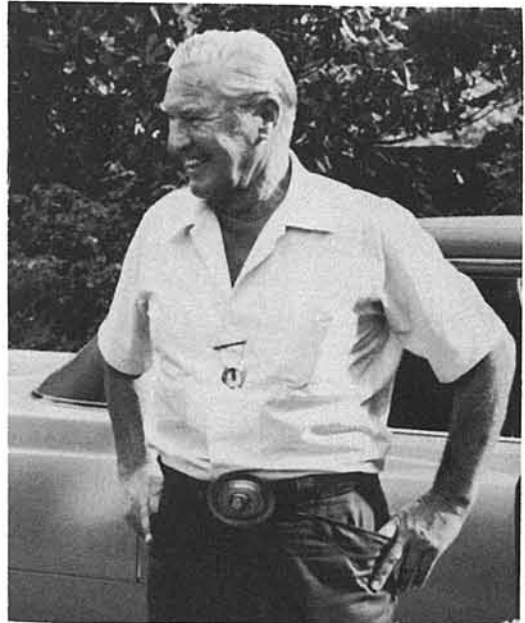
LOS ANGELES CORRAL

DECEMBER 1968

## ARTISTS, HISTORIANS CLOSE A MEMORABLE YEAR

THE FALL PROGRAM was opened high, wide and handsome with the Annual Roundup, staged again on the spacious south forty of Dr. Alden Miller in Glendale, September 14. The fandango and fiesta started at 2:30 p.m., with the dinner gong at 6. Interspersed, and to take Westerners' minds off serious business, were such load-lighteners as horse-shoe pitching, a genuine western liars' contest, trading post, exhibit corner, and if one got the hell tired of all this, there was the swimming pool. The bar was well stocked with enough grog to make every Westerner forget both wife and tax bill. All one had to do was name one's own poison to Bill Newbro and his b-boys, and it was there with grace, eclat, and music.

Barbecued steaks, big, juicy, and with all the western trimmings, were washed down with copious draughts of red mountain vino. By that time all the Westerners present, and guests, were ripened and mellowed for the edifying portion of the program. Speaker of the evening was Olaf Wieghorst, noted Western artist, and equally noted member of San Diego Corral. Introduced were many other artists who were present to do homage to one of the great masters of the craft. Olaf's talk was as charming and interesting as an Horatio Alger story — the rise of a frightened emigrant boy in America to the very pinnacle of success as an artist. He told of his experiences as a cavalryman, cowboy, police officer, and eager young painter. A motion picture, in color, of his equally colorful life, and narrated and shared by his close friend John Wayne, added greatly to the interest of this remarkable evening. On display also, lent for the occasion by their



ARTIST OLAF WIEGHORST  
Speaker at September Roundup

—Bill Lagana Photo.

proud Westerner owners, were a number of beautiful canvases painted by the distinguished guest.

Among the guests present at the September Roundup were: Bill Center, guest of Ex-Sheriff Loring Campbell; Al White, guest of Bob Huntoon; Dana and Paul Dentzel, sons of Ex-Sheriff Carl S. Dentzel; Robert Wagoner and William Raffle, guests of Tad Lonergan, M.D.; Leo V. Corbett, guest of Jim Gardiner; Lester Arellanes, guest of Donald Duke; Don Torguson, guest of Bill Newbro; Bert Proctor, guest of Allen Willett; Dr. John Hawgood, British professor

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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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and Material Submitted for Publication:

The Roundup Foreman  
**PAUL BAILEY**

5040 Eagle Rock Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90041

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

## Speak Up, Pardners!

That it may properly serve Los Angeles Corral of Westerners it is essential that the *Branding Iron* know the news and the activities of its members—Corresponding and Resident.

The things that happen to you, will be of interest to all. Tell it to the editor. A postcard will do.

Page Two . . .

## New Sheriff and Officers Chosen for 1969

At the November meeting, a nominating committee of gray bearded Ex-Sheriffs, headed by Sid Platford, presented a proposed slate of officers for the year 1969 before the assembled Corral membership. The choice of the committee has been unanimously accepted, and the following elective officers will serve the membership through the coming year: As Sheriff, Ernest M. Hovard was chosen. Sky Dunlap was the choice for Deputy Sheriff, only to be struck down by sudden death a week after he was sustained in office. In the loss of this wise and popular Westerner, Bill Newbro was nominated to fill the vacancy.

Everett Hager consented to again carry on as Registrar of Marks and Brands, as did Paul Bailey as Roundup Foreman, and Bert Olson as Keeper of the Chips. The appointive officers will be announced by Sheriff Hovard in January. The new officers now humbly face the new year in this great and energetic organization — knowing that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to top the year of activity and progress which marked the term of Sheriff August Schatra and his loyal and willing crew.

## New Corresponding Members

Leo V. Corbett, 1493 Cota, Long Beach, Calif. 90813.  
Fred Failla, 25½ W. Canon Perdido, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93101.  
Gene Record, 21 El Paseo, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93101.  
William Riffle, 1906 N. Towner, Santa Ana, Calif.  
Donald E. Torguson, 5640 Vista Del Monte, Van Nuys, Calif. 91401.  
Robert Wagoner 2184 Daisy, Long Beach Calif. 90806.  
Allan M. Wesson, Jr., 3236 Sparr Blvd., Glendale, Calif.  
Ed Williamson, 1449 Hampton Road, San Marino, Calif. 91108.

## New Active Member

At the December meeting CM Raymond A. Wells, Jr. was accepted by the Corral into Active membership, and presented with his grubstake certificate. Welcome aboard, Raymond. You'll find your new world most interesting.



#### THE OCTOBER MEETING

From left: Historian Doyce Nunis flanks Historian W. Turrentine Jackson. With them are Sheriff August Schatra and Deputy Sheriff Ernest Hovard.

—Iron Eyes Cody Photo.

## Artists and Historians

(Continued from Page 1)

and member of the English Society of Westerners, guest of Dr. Ray Billington; Helen Bender, Steve Stephens and Polly Stephens, guests of Bill Bender; Gene Record, Fred Failla, guests of Whitney Genns; Bob Armstrong, Bob Riker, guests of Tom F. Lydon; Ed Williamson, guest of Ken Mansker; Kirk Urabec, son and guest of John Urabec, M.D.; Gilbert Trujillo, guest of Al Hammond; Martin Stornie, guest of Deputy Sheriff Ernie Hovard; Philip Svec, M.D., guest of Ex-Sheriff Harvey Starr, M.D.

The painters and artists sprinkled in the foregoing guest list would indicate that the Corral's September Roundup, besides being one of the most delightful get-togethers ever held, was also something of an artistic triumph. More than that, it was a Westerner triumph, in the greatest tradition, for that most generous and hospitable member of the Corral, Dr. Alden Miller.

#### OCTOBER MEETING

The October 9 gathering brought the Corral back to Les Freres Taix on the familiar bunching-ground at Sunset and Alvarado. Speaker was historian W. Turrentine Jackson with "An Historian's View

of Well Fargo. Since Wells Fargo and its elliptic background threatens to become as controversial as Custer, this intellectual analysis was especially appreciated. And Dr. Jackson, with his tremendous background as educator and author, gave the Westerners and their guests an exciting and thought-provoking evening.

W. Turrentine Jackson is presently Professor of History at University of California, Davis campus. Among the books he has written are *Wagon Roads West*, *When Grass Was King*, and *Treasure Hill*. His books have won awards by the American Historical Association, American Institute of Graphic Arts, and the Chicago Westerners. At present he is on the Governor's California History Board, and has served on the Editorial Committee of the University of California Press, Board of Editors of *Pacific Historical Review*, and *Southern California Quarterly*. He holds a Ph.D from the University of Texas.

For the art gallery, Sheriff August Schatra provided a fine display of original drawings by José Cisneros of El Paso, depicting "The Riders of the Spanish Borderlands." These superb sketches were viewed with interest and delight. Once again the monthly art exhibit proved a popular and delightful feature for the Corral's members.

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#### THE NOVEMBER MEETING

From left, Sheriff August Schatra, Sheriff-Elect Ernest Hovard, Ex-Sheriff Paul Bailey, and CM Harry C. James, speaker of the evening.

—Iron Eyes Cody Photo.

## Artists and Historians

(Continued from Previous Page)

#### NOVEMBER MEETING

Corresponding Member Harry C. James, once a very active resident member before moving out of local pasture, was the featured speaker for the November meeting, also held at Taix. In his inimitable style he regaled the overflow gathering with "Some of the Writers of Yesterday I Have Known." And Harry knew lots of them. With such controversial authors as James Willard Schultz and Will James as part of the cavvy of scribblers in his recollection, the meeting was spicy and interesting, and with an unusually heavy interchange of questions and answers after the talk.

It was like "old home week" to have Harry back, and the attendance proved that he was well remembered. Harry was born in Ottawa, Canada. Years ago he founded the highly respected Trailfinders, a school and association for boys. After many years of directing the school he retired to the San Jacinto Mountains near Idylwild, where he owns a beautiful mountain home with a fantastic book and record library.

He has traveled extensively, has climbed a number of the major peaks of the world, and has written a number of significant

books dealing with the Southwest. These include *The Treasure of the Hopitu, Haliksai—a Book of Legends of the Grand Canyon Country, The Hopi Indians, Red Man—White Man, The Cahuilla Indians*, and a long list of books for young people. He is an honorary member of the Hopi Tribe, and is currently writing a definitive history of the Hopis, which is designed to be used as a text for the Hopi youngsters.

Ex-Sheriff Sid Platford, as chairman of the nominating committee, placed in nomination a new slate of officers to serve for 1969. The names, as presented, were unanimously elected by the Westerners of Los Angeles Corral.

Doyce Nunis furnished the art display, which featured the Indian paintings of Claire Dunkel. Dr. Nunis gave a most interesting background fill-in for the gifted and little known painter of Indian subjects.

Among the visitors and guests were: David Dutton, CM Donald Duke, Bill Hines Ed Williamson, historians Father Maynard Geiger and CM Father Francis Weber, Dr. Edward Parker, Dan Keefe, and Everett Hager, Jr., son of our tireless Registrar. Wandering out from other Corrals were George Eckhart from Tucson,

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## *In Remembrance*

JOHN W. "SKY" DUNLAP

1912-1968

By DON MEADOWS

JOHN "SKY" DUNLAP won't be around the corral anymore. On Friday November 15 he took the long trail over which there is no return. His genial disposition and warm friendship will be missed.

Sky was a big man in many ways. Only occasionally, when matters connected with western newspapers or events in California were mentioned would he break through his natural modesty and expose his vast information drawn from experience and association. He knew the West, not from the back of a cayuse but from the air, train or automobile. His contacts were enormous. He was a newspaper man who rose from paper boy upward through cub reporter to his final job as western representative of the *Editor and Publisher Magazine*. Along the way he was a police reporter, a news editor on the *Los Angeles Times* and western political editor of the *United Press* with an office in Sacramento. He was a graduate of U. S. C., and once owned his own newspaper in Santa Ana, California. His newspaper career brought him in contact with all types of people and places and instead of becoming blasé, as some newspaper men do, he developed a warmth and human understanding that made him cherished by everyone with whom he came in contact. More than one Westerner has received a cheery note scrawled in colored pencil when incapacitated in home or hospital and signed by the single name "Sky." The name was distinctive as the man was distinctive in kindness and size. He used to say he was five feet nineteen inches (six feet seven inches) in height and was never lost in a crowd. Sky was only fifty-six years old.

A member of the Los Angeles Corral since 1963 it was fitting that three days before he took the long trail West he was nominated for Deputy Sheriff of the organization. Once more we have to say, "Adios, Amigo Mio, Vaya con Dios."



"SKY" DUNLAP

—Lonnie Hull Photo.

## **CM Charles P. Yale Taken by Death**

CM Charles Philip Yale, lovingly known to members of Los Angeles Corral as "Chuck" and "Bud", passed away October 10. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, his daughters Carolyn Elizabeth and Margaret T., and his mother, Mrs. Charles Yale, Sr., of Altadena. Charles was the owner and proprietor of Charles Yale, Booksellers, of Pasadena, one of the most respected firms of its kind in the west.

He was born in 1919 in Minnesota, graduated from Stanford University, and served in the Navy during World War II. His father, Charles Yale Sr., himself a revered and respected bookman, was at one time associated with Vroman's Book Shop, and later became general manager of Dawson's. In 1938 he established, in Pasadena, the firm of Charles Yale, Bookseller. Charles Philip Yale, after his return from the war, became a partner in 1945. After the death of Charles Yale, Sr., himself an early mem-

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## Charles P. Yale

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ber of Los Angeles Corral of Westerners, Charles Philip Yale, the son, established a partnership with Philip Brown, and for a number of years the firm was known as Yale & Brown. Eventually Charles assumed full proprietorship, and the name of the firm reverted to Charles Yale, Booksellers.

This well known Pasadena firm specialized in Western Americana and was a favorite haunt for Westerner collectors. Through the years it published many fine catalogs and was instrumental in dispersing such important Western Americana collections as the James Brem, Dan Miner, Steven Dolley, M.D., and a considerable portion of the George Wharton James collection.

Charles Philip Yale, besides being a Westerner, was an original member of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, and held a number of offices in the Southern California Chapter. He had a well-deserved reputation for integrity, kindness and helpfulness. In the book world his loss is keenly felt. To the many Westerners who knew and loved him, "Chuck" Yale will be sorely missed.

### Major Heart Surgery For James Fassero

Westerner James Fassero has been bravely fighting a battle for his very life. Struck down, early in October, by a series of heart attacks, he was rushed to the coronary unit of Harbor Community Hospital, at San Pedro, and placed under intensive care. Time and again his life was despaired of, but somehow Jim rallied to live from day to day.

November 15, as a desperate last measure, he was moved to the Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, and a few days later a team of eminent heart surgeons performed a major operation on Jim's heart. The drastic surgery appears to be successful, and Jim is slowly recovering from his ordeal. He is grateful for those Westerners who remembered him with their cards and notes, and would appreciate hearing from any and all of his good friends in the Corral. Most of all is he looking forward to once more sitting in with the gang.

Page Six . . .

## CM Jack O'Neill Dies After Short Illness

October 13, after a month's illness, CM F. Jack O'Neill, western artist and writer, passed away. He was born in 1901, and was especially well known in Montana, Wyoming, Oregon and Canada. In earlier days he was a school teacher, and came to California from Kalispell, Montana, and made his home at 347 N. Lima Street, in Burbank.

Jack O'Neill, besides being one of the world's greatest artists on rigging, saddles, bridles, and one of the greatest authorities for their accuracy, was also an extensive contributor to *Montana Magazine of History* and the *Horseman Magazine*. He was an expert roper, and pursued this as a vocation professionally for a number of years. As one of the champion ropers in his youngest years, he knew all the old-time rodeo men, and they knew him.

Jack had been a Corresponding Member of Los Angeles Corral for over two years, and was a close and dear friend of Ken Mansker and Ed Williamson. He was one of the artists introduced by Earl Adams at the summer outdoor party at the home of Dr. Alden Miller, and his membership in Los Angeles Corral was something especially important and dear to him.

Just prior to his death he had completed a book-length manuscript pertaining to his many and varied experiences. In it he has summed up a lifetime of having truly lived the life of a true and authentic Westerner. This type of man is getting increasingly scarce in Los Angeles Corral. The passing of Jack O'Neill is truly an irreparable loss.

### New Book by CM Robert Howard

CM Robert West Howard, one of America's most prolific and distinguished authors, has added to his long string of American historical studies, *Thundergate: The Forts of Niagara*. This new book, of 241 pages, is published by Prentice-Hall.

In *Thundergate*, Bob Howard tells the story of that sturdy fortification atop a bluff at the confluence of the Niagara River and Lake Ontario, and in doing so captures the whole vivid pageantry of the early westward movement.



## BRAND BOOK COMMITTEE STUDIES PUBLICATION PROBLEMS

Editor Bill Kimes, at center table, flanked by committee members (from left) Paul Bailey, Homer H. Boelter, Ed Carpenter and Don Meadows, meet at Arthur H. Clark Company to lay final plans for Brand Book No. 13.

—Iron Eyes Cody Photo.

Early in September the Brand Book Committee met at the Arthur H. Clark Company to attend to the final efforts of putting the current Brand Book "to bed", and to thresh over multitudinous problems which invariably beset a publishing program of this magnitude.

Another meeting was held at the annual outdoor roundup at the home of Dr. Alden Miller, at which time proposals were drawn up for amending the Range Rules to allow for a more efficient and continuing operational setup. This was submitted to the Corral vote by mail, and accepted by a majority of ballots in its favor.

The third meeting was called November 30 to check on publishing progress, and to formalize the decisions into a smooth functioning group dedicated to the effort of making certain that Brand Book No. 13, and subsequent Brand Books appear with reasonable regularity.

Through the efficient and tireless efforts of Editor Bill Kimes and his hardworking committee, Brand Book No. 13 is already at

the printers and well along toward becoming a reality. Through the printing artistry of Ex-Sheriff Homer Boelter, Westerners can be assured that nothing will be spared to make it another book for which the Corral may point with justifiable pride.

## Westerners Attend Symposium On History and Archives

A history symposium, primarily on archival items, was held September 12 at the University of San Francisco by the Society of American Archivists in cooperation with the National Archives and Record Service, the Department of History and the Gleeson Library of the University of San Francisco.

Six of the speakers were members of California's six Westerner Corrals. Included were Bob Weinstein, of Los Angeles Corral, and George Chalfant, secretary of the Redwood Coast Westerners. According to Westerner Chalfant, "Your Bob Weinstein did his usual superstuff."

# WHO WAS THE FIRST BORAX KING?

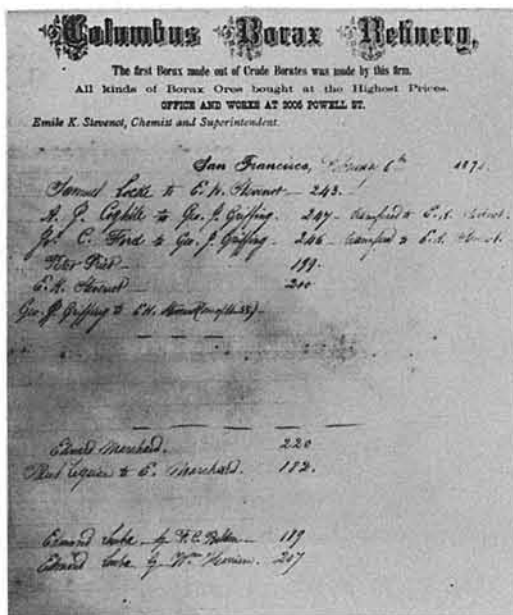
By ARCHIE D. STEVENOT

EDITOR'S NOTE — The author of this article, Archie D. Stevenot, died August 2, 1968, before seeing its publication. In addition to his background as a local historian, he was past Sublime Noble Grand Humbug of the Grand Council of E Clampus Vitus, and greatly beloved by all who were privileged to know him.

THIS is the early history of my father, Emile K. Stevenot, in connection with the borax business. The history written here, is taken from the Society of California Pioneers, Pioneer Hall, and my father's records, with names of ownership of stock in the Columbus Borax Refinery office and works at 2005 Powell Street, San Francisco. Also that of Emile K. Stevenot, chemist and superintendent, advertising under "E. K. Stevenot and Company, Borax and Metallurgical Refinery, assay office and chemical laboratory," Chestnut Street between Powell and Mason Streets, North Beach, also offices at 411 Montgomery Street, near California and San Francisco. Also there were records of it in the San Francisco Directory in the 1870s.

My sister, Mrs. James R. Gericke, Fallon, Marin County, California, who is now 92 years of age, remembers well the Borax works and my father's connection with it. My oldest brother, Fred G. Stevenot was well acquainted with this history, and contributed much to it.

Jean Gabriel K. Stevenot, my grandfather, born in Rohrback, France, graduated in law from the University of Strassburg. In the year 1848 he enrolled my father in the University of Strassburg, then he left his family in Alsace Lorraine, their home in France, for the big gold strike in California, by way of New York and the Isthmus of Panama; then up the coast in a sailing vessel to San Francisco. He arrived in California August 1849. After a short stay in San Francisco he went with Captain John Sutter up on the Feather River, and they built the town of Elizaville. He left there for the gold mines in Calaveras County in 1850.



## BILLHEAD OF COLUMBUS BORAX

When my father, Emile K. Stevenot, graduated from the University of Strassburg, in mining engineering, geology, chemistry, and languages, he also completed a course in chemistry at Heidelberg. He came to California by way of the Isthmus of Panama, coming up the coast to San Francisco by ship. He went to Carson Hill, Calaveras County, arriving in 1863, joining his father, who had valuable mines operating at that time on Carson Flat, Carson Hill, Calaveras County.

Emile K. Stevenot was placed in charge of the Melones Mining Company, and shortly after was elected president of the company. This was on the northwest side of Carson Hill. He and his father lived on the old Stevenot place, where my grandfather had built a home in 1852.

My father, having been educated in mining engineering chemistry, he and his father built an assay office on the old home place, treating all kinds of metals, making tests, retorting, and melting gold from the mines and all others who wanted it done. Mining slowed down near the end of the



1860s, and my grandfather suffered a stroke.

My father met a Mr. Kauffman, who had been experimenting with salts sent to him from Nevada, in an attempt to produce refined borax. He had not been successful, so he suggested to my father, Emile K. Stevenot, to check his experiments. In a short time they succeeded in producing a high grade refined borax in a small pilot plant. In 1871 they had built a larger plant to produce borax in commercial quantities. He extended this plant at Chestnut and Powell Streets, in San Francisco. The main source of his raw material was from Teel's Marsh, Columbus, Nevada, where they had some works, consisting of a concentration plant. First the material was scraped up on the surface, and then shipped direct to the San Francisco plant at Chestnut and Powell Streets.

The concentration plant at Columbus, Nevada, gave them a clean grade of crude borax, thus eliminating the shipping of considerable foreign material to the factory in San Francisco. They were purchasing this material from parties who had control of Teel's Marsh.

About this time a young man by the name of Francis Smith came to the factory in San Francisco. He told my father, Emile K. Stevenot, he was very much interested in borax. At the time my father had no opening in San Francisco, and told him he would give him employment at Columbus, Nevada, at the plant there. Smith went to Nevada, and started on the job at Columbus. He first cut wood for the large boilers. This was about 1872 and 1873.

About this time my father married Miss Sarah Stephens, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stephens. Mr. Stephens was connected with the Department of the Interior, U. S. Geological Survey, and later he was United States Marshal in Lone Pine, California.

My father and mother were married in San Francisco, and in 1872 the United States Government, knowing my father's interest in borax as a chemist, asked him to make an examination of the deposits at Death Valley. He took leave, from the Presideo, with a number of soldiers.

The two plants in Columbus, Nevada and San Francisco were working day and night.

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#### STEVENOT'S BORAX — AD OF 1873

They had shipped throughout the United States and Europe about \$150,000.00 worth of refined borax at a time. It took considerable money to finance the operation, and a Mr. Jos. M. Mosheimer, a financier and, later, president of the Anglo Mexican Land and Mining Bureau Association, offered to help. Through Mr. Mosheimer, my father was financed. At this time my father owned the entire business. My father told us he was offered part of Teel's Marsh for \$3,000.00. He told Mr. Mosheimer it was worth it. Mr. Mosheimer hesitated in paying this price, and thought he could do better.

In the meantime Francis Smith, as my father always said, was a very observing man and was working in the Columbus plant at the time. Mr. Smith made a trip to Chicago, where he induced certain men to back his plan to acquire the marshes. He was successful, and soon set a price on crude material which induced my father to dispose of the Columbus plant to Mr. Smith. Following this the concentrates were increased in price to where the San Francisco plant could make little or no profit, resulting in the sale of the San Francisco plant also to Francis Smith for the sum of \$17,000.00. Mr. Smith was now launched on a venture which led him to be known as "Borax Smith."

In San Francisco, in 1873, Emile K. Stevenot received a large diploma naming

*(Continued on Next Page)*

## Stevenot's Borax

(Continued from Previous Page)

him the "Borax King of Refined Borax." This citation hung on our dining room wall. Later it was in my sister's home, until the San Francisco fire in 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. Emile K. Stevenot, in 1879, returned with their family to Carson Hill, Calaveras County and the gold mines with their \$17,000.00 and the honor of receiving the citation as King of the Refined Borax, and he was very successful in his continued operation in the mining business. As for Mr. Francis Smith, my brother, Fred G. Stevenot, wrote this: "I might add by saying that eventually Smith's great speculative energies led him far afield from business of borax and finally to financial difficulty. However, through all this he never lost interest in the borax business, and after a long period of experimentation with the underground liquors of Searles Lake in San Bernardino County he established a chemical plant designed to produce borax.

This plant, owned by West End Chemical Company, has grown in size and importance as one of the leading plants of its kind in the country. Mrs. Francis Smith, widow of Mr. Francis Smith, as well as my brother Fred, were both on the board of directors.

## Don Hamblin's Talks Issued as Keepsake

After the untimely death of our illustrious fellow Westerner Judge Donald William Hamblin, a beautiful keepsake booklet was issued by the Hamblin family in Don's memory. Titled *Five Historic Characters in California Law*, it features sprightly talks he had delivered on famous historical characters; three of them before the Los Angeles Corral.

Besides the biographical note on Judge Hamblin, are included the following chapters so reminiscent to Los Angeles Westerners: "The Sharon Cases: a Legal Melodrama of the Eighties," "Silver, Greed and Corruption," "Lucky Baldwin's Litigious Loves," "Stephen M. White," and "Colonel Lankershim's Note."

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## Corral Chips . . .

Ex-Sheriff Carl Dentzel has been one of the busiest speakers of the year. At the Eighth Annual Conference of Western History, held October 16-19 in Tucson he spoke on "The Southwest - Cradle of American History." At the Annual Encampment of the Death Valley '49ers, held November 8-12, he delivered a nostalgic address in memory of the beloved Ed Ainsworth. His next effort was to regale the ladies of the Ruskin Art Club on that club's 80th anniversary. Westerner Carl is really versatile.

On Wednesday evening, November 6, CM Rev. Francis J. Weber was the featured speaker at the Zamorano Club, Biltmore Hotel. His topic was "The Birth, Death, Burial and Resurrection of a California Mission Library."

Ex-Sheriff Henry Clifford announces that his collection of Western Express and Postal History will be auctioned in New York, probably in January. The collection, consisting of over 1,000 envelopes and covers, plus other material, and Henry's philatelic library, will be fully described in the catalog to be issued. Those who would like copies of this catalog as a keepsake, may have same by contacting Henry.

Iron Eyes Cody rounded out a busy summer by serving as master of ceremonies for the Grand Council of the Consolidated Tribes of American Indians, held in Milwaukee in July. In August, he and his son Robert attended the Hopi Snake Dance and other ceremonials. While at Shongopovi, they visited with Louis Tewanem, once a great Indian athlete during the time of Jim Thorpe. Today Louis serves as an Antelope priest of the Hopis, but will retire soon due to old age.

Ex-Sheriff Paul Bailey was the third speaker on the bibliographic lecture series of the Friends of U.C.-Irvine and Cal. State Fullerton. His talk, November 1, was on "The Art of the Book," from the publisher's standpoint.

## Western History Confab Draws Many Westerners

The Conference on Western History, held October 16-19 in Tucson, was not only the largest ever held by W.H.A. in point of attendance, but proved that the world-wide organization of Westerners was one of the most potent of all forces behind the gathering and dissemination of America's Western history. The Westerners breakfast, held the last morning of the convention, was so popular that it came close to stealing the show. It filled the Pioneer International Hotel's ballroom to absolute capacity, and many who wanted to share it were turned away.

The Tucson Corral was host to the breakfast, which featured door prizes of more than fifty beautiful historical books donated for the occasion by the publishers who had exhibits at the convention. The weather was perfect, the conference was impeccably planned, and the delegates from all over America were in full agreement that the whole affair was absolute tops.

Members of Los Angeles Corral in attendance included Sheriff August Schatra; Ex-Sheriffs Arthur Clark, George Fullerton, John Kemble, Paul Calleher, Carl Dentzel, Paul Bailey, and Arthur Woodward; Carl Dentzel served as one of the convention speakers, and other Westerners were on important panels. Other resident and corresponding members from Los Angeles Corral included Registrar Everett Hager, Dr. Doyce Nunis, Dr. Ray Billington, Dr. Clifford Drury, Bill Kimes, Dudley Gordon, George McMannus, Dick Mohr, Earl C. Adams, and Michael Harrison.

### St. Louis Westerners A Lively Group

The St. Louis Corral of Westerners appear to be an active and enthusiastic group. Their meetings are held at Garavelli's Restaurant, 301 DeBaliviere Avenue, and "Los Angeles Westerners are always welcome at our meetings."

Their November meeting featured Dr. John T. Flanagan, of U. of I., speaking on "Commodore Rollingpin." Dr. John Francis McDermott, of Southern Illinois U. will talk January 17 on "Wagons West."

## Federal Tax Exemption Won by Earl Adams

Earl Adams should be lauded and applauded for a dogged and untiring effort in obtaining a certificate of Tax Exemption from the United States Government, placing Los Angeles Corral in the same exemption category as other non-profit organizations and historical societies. Most Westerners felt that the organization was justly entitled to this exemption, but previous attempts at obtaining it has proven futile.

But Earl Adams, one of the west's great attorneys, refused to accept defeat. His first effort before the Federal Internal Revenue Board was defeated, but Earl was persistent, and appealed the Corral's case. In this appeal he was successful, and the verdict was reversed.

To the Corral and its members there are many other advantages besides making membership dues deductible on individual income tax returns. At last Los Angeles Corral of Westerners is truly and legally recognized for what it has always been — a non-profit society devoted to the dissemination of Western history.

And to Westerner Earl Adams, the Corral owes a lasting debt. This great barrister, without cost or charge to our group, has fought a great fight, and won a great victory. Every Westerner is in his debt.

## Corral Chips . . .

Guest of Dr. Clifford Drury at the December meeting was Jack Lenke, of Pasadena. And Jack Lenke is the grandson of a Montana Vigilante who helped hang Plummer. In order that the Corral may have first at the story he (Lenke — *not* Plummer) has been signed up for the March meeting.

Ex-Sheriff Arthur H. Clark has been elected the 1969 President of the Book Publishers Association of Southern California, an active group comprising forty publishers.

On September 10 CM Ed Carpenter gave vocal assist, at the Pasadena Public Library, in honoring Gertrude Stoughton on the publication of *The Books of California*.

## **From the Mailbag . . .**

"Mr. Paul Bailey, Editor:

"I read with much interest the June issue of the *Branding Iron*. In that one issue reference was made to three men, two of whom I met a long time ago but have not seen in many years, and one I met only this summer.

"Mr. William F. Kimes reviewed a recent book written by a friend I met many, many years ago when he was a guide in the Waterton Lakes area of Canada. I am of course referring to Andy Russell. At that time Andy had been guiding those rich sportsmen from the east and watching them take movies of their exploits. He had also been asked occasionally to actually take pictures. It appealed to him and eventually he obtained a beat up camera for himself. From that time on he was hooked as a photographer. And of course as soon as he began to see the animals through the camera lens he began to lose interest in shooting them — for a dead creature is no longer any good for pictures.

"Andy also quickly found out what only a few others have known, that if a human pays little attention to a wild animal, the wild animal usually pays little attention to the human. In other words, wild creatures do not like to be stared at. Odd but true.

"I am happy to see that Andy is doing well, and I must read his book.

"Art Woodward I also met many years ago when we both made the happy mistake of signing up with a boy's camp run by a friend, Ansell Hall from Colorado. As I remember it we had a great time, but Art may have other opinions. I have seen Art only once since that time, when I stopped at the museum in L.A. I understand he is retired and I hope, having fun in the southwest. Maybe someday our paths will cross again.

"The third man is Roy Houck of Pierre, South Dakota. Just this past month my wife and I were on the Houck ranch to get some movie footage on the movement of a herd of buffalo from one pasture to another.

"Roy Houck is a true Westerner and his ranch is something to see. Mile after mile of the most beautiful rolling grassland imaginable. We have some great shots of Roy and the family trying to get those buf-

falo to go through a gate they had not seen. When an old cow and calf decided she was going the other way there was no stopping them and they went past me on the dead run, tongues almost touching the ground. For a few seconds I was a cowboy stranded in the middle of a herd of running buffalo. Real great.

"Your magazine is fine. Keep up the good work.

"FRAN WILLIAM HALL."

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### **Dramatic Kachina Book Authored by Homer Boelter**

Combining his great gifts as an artist, his universally acclaimed skill as a printing craftsman, and his deep and sympathetic interest as a writer, Ex-Sheriff Homer H. Boelter has brought to fruition a unique and magnificent production in his *Portfolio of Hopi Kachinas*. The sixteen color plates, 64 pages of text, foreword and index are printed to page size of 11½ x 14½, on heavy white vellum text, bound in sturdy cloth, in slip case. Four-color end sheets, depicting kachina symbols, add their own bright and gay touch to an already breathlessly beautiful creation.

Foreword is by another ex-sheriff of Los Angeles Corral, Dr. Carl Schaefer Dentzel, Director of the Southwest Museum. The whole production represents solid research, impeccable printing, and a significant contribution to the mystery and wonder of the Hopi people.

Since the edition is limited to 1,000 signed and numbered copies, the *Portfolio of Hopi Kachinas* is certain to be a collector's item. It is being distributed by the Arthur H. Clark Company at \$45.00, and it is hoped that a review of this great book may be a part of the next issue of the *Branding Iron*.

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### **Historical Workshop at San Bernardino**

A Conference of California Historical Societies Workshop and directors meeting was held November 2-3 at the San Bernardino County Museum. Sessions started early Saturday morning, November 2, and carried over to Sunday noon. The Calico archeological excavation, under direction of Miss Ruth Simpson, was toured, as well as the old town of Calico and adjacent historical sites.



## Percy Bonebrake Remembered

A nostalgic article on that great and beloved Westerner of yesteryear, Percy Bonebrake, was featured in the October-November issue of *Frontier Times*, and authored by our own CM Walter W. Gann.

Walter tells the exciting story of Percy's life, his beginnings as the son of one of the wealthiest men in California. "It was said that by zigzagging his course, a man could ride horseback from the Mexican border to the Oregon line and spend each night on Bonebrake property. If he looked long enough and hard enough, he could count eighty thousand cattle in the Bonebrake brand during his travel."

But Percy was no pampered son, even though his father owned immense holdings and was president of one of the large Los Angeles banks. Percy early broke with the affluent life in favor of the cowpuncher's luck — working cattle in Arizona and the Mexican border. Percy's independence of spirit was something his father could never understand, and the rift between them grew wider.

In time they managed to reconcile their differences sufficient for the strong-willed son to take an active part in the cattle-end of his father's business. The great financial panic at the turn of the century wiped out the Bonebrake family wealth, and Percy inherited but little of his father's once vast holdings. He subsequently became manager of Lucky Baldwin's immense holdings, and served as an honest-to-God peace officer in the West's wilder days.

But like Walter Gann, the Westerners of Los Angeles Corral remember this handsome giant of a man as one of the dearest souls ever to grace the Corral's ranks. Percy's "belly-gun" which he carried as a peace officer, is the property of Los Angeles Corral, and symbolically passed from Sheriff to Sheriff with each annual accession of officers. Ex-Sheriffs Harvey Starr and Paul Bailey were in the process of taping Percy's personal recollection at the time of his untimely death. It is to be regretted that this project went unfulfilled. Percy gave



PERCY BONEBRAKE

—Lonnie Hull Photo.

much to Los Angeles Corral, and had much to give.

In the *Frontier Times* article, Walter Gann has reproduced one of the earliest photos ever taken of an assemblage of Los Angeles Corral of Westerners. It was held in 1947 at "Trails End," once the home of Charles Russell, and at that time the property of Homer Britzman, the godfather of Los Angeles Corral. Present in this rare photo were many of the oldtimers — a number of whom are still with us.

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### Ramon Adams' "Western Words" Republished by Oklahoma

It is a quarter-century since the first publication of Ramon Adams' *Western Words*. Since that time the book has become the standard authority on the lingo of the American West, particularly that of the cowman.

Now in a greatly expanded edition — double the size of the earlier book — it has again been published by the University of Oklahoma Press, and a bargain at \$7.95.

Indexed by word or phrase, and cross-indexed by topic, it is a true dictionary of the American West, and a new and vital tool to the western writer and historian.

## DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL . . .

EXPLORING CALIFORNIA BYWAYS, II. In and Around Los Angeles. By Russ Leadabrand. Los Angeles: Ward Ritchie Press. 184 pp.; illustrations; maps. \$1.95

Westerner Russ Leadabrand, with the publication of this sprightly and compact travel book, now adds the seventh volume to his California Guidebook Series. Like the others, it is just as valuable and useful a little gem as it is attractive. There is something in it for everybody — for the family pursuing weekend drives and local history, the mining buff, even the amateur naturalist and the ghost town seeker.

Fifteen byways, described by Russ as "little roads that beckon, smaller roads that invite" — each with an accompanying map — are explored. Routes, scenic descriptions, points of local interest and historic landmarks are described. Among the trips listed: Across the top of the San Gabriel Mountains, Through the San Gabriel Valley, The Canyon Country North of Newhall, From Perris to San Juan Capistrano, Into the Devil's Punchbowl Country, and many others.

Loaded with pictures and local history, Westerners will find it doubly useful. And, quite unlike the usual softcover travel helps, it carries a comprehensive index and a bibliography.

— PAUL BAILEY.

BEACHES OF BAJA, by Walt Wheelock, Glendale: La Siesta Press. 72 pp., illustrations, index, bibliography. \$1.95.

Walt Wheelock, publisher, author, and entrepreneur, has issued another of his sprightly little books on the hinterlands of the coastal west. This time it is on Baja California, and there are few men who know this rugged land better than Walt.

It is both a guidebook and a compendium of little known history concerning the waterfront of that vast and mysterious isthmus. The chapters of the book, covering the beaches and beach areas in detail, include: La Frontera, El Monumental, Rosarito Beach, Salsipuedes, Bahia Todos Santos,

Punta Banda, Puerto Santo Tomas, Puntas San José y San Isidro, San Antonio Del Mar, Bahia San Quintin, El Rosario, and The Sea of Cortez, and Las Islas.

The book is copiously illustrated with good and readable maps, and with many photographs, most of them by the author himself. A nice item by a fine writer, and a very active publisher.

— PAUL BAILEY.

EBBETT: PASS, BIG TREE-CARSON VALLEY TURNPIKE AND HIGHWAY FOUR, by R. Coke Wood. Old Timers Museum, Box 94, Murphys, California. 1968. \$2.00, plus tax and postage.

Our CM of the gold country, Dr. R. Coke Wood, has turned out another of his fine little booklets about the land he loves. The 67 pictures of historical places and scenes along Highway Four from Copperopolis to Woodfords at the Junction with Highway 88 makes the book well worth the price. A hardcover edition, limited to 150 autographed and numbered copies is available at \$6.00.

THE ARMIES OF GOD, by Paul Bailey, New York Doubleday & Co. 300 pp. illus., index, bibliography. \$5.95

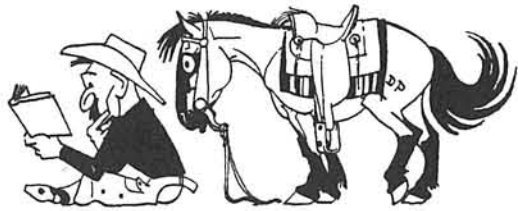
Paul Bailey's latest contribution to his formidable list of seven novels and now eight non-fiction volumes, mostly influenced by his Mormon background and grounded in his extensive research into the history of this dedicated, religiously devout — at times misunderstood and persecuted followers of the prophet Joseph Smith. In his newest non-fiction volume, *The Armies of God*, Paul Bailey has brought into focus the significant and sometimes mysterious history of the militant and protective orders organized by Joseph Smith and the leaders of the church to combat those forces, Gentile vs. Saint, that threatened the sect's religious survival and their very lives. Paul Bailey has that rare talent of recounting the dramatic events of history and bringing them back to life again in a warm, sympathetic, yet frankly objective narrative. This new book is an intriguing and vivid story of a religiously peaceful people, beset by tribulations and their counter-actions to a turbulent and violent wave of intolerance and bigotry.

The history of western America in the mid-eighteen hundreds is a dramatic story of one of the world's great eras of expansion, with a mighty shifting of people of many complexes within one generation. The life of these pioneers was a succession of extremes — extreme hardships, extreme tasks, extreme indulgences, extreme passions and extreme disregard for "civilized" law. These extremes were faced and met with equally extreme measures. Pioneering is never easy, and these frontiersmen worked hard, played hard, drank hard, fought hard and prayed hard. Hate, greed prejudice, selfish interest and religious intolerance flourished and in this atmosphere the Saints grew and were tempered while following the revelations of their prophet.

The first Army of God was recruited at Kirtland, Ohio in response to the call for relief by the Saints in Missouri, who were sorely tried and threatened with violence. In answer to Joseph Smith's call for volunteers, a rag-tag, poorly provisioned, vaguely led and disciplined group was assembled which was called, "Zion's Camp." Lack of organization, leadership and understanding resulted in this Army's ineffective relief of the Missouri brethren.

During the *Missouri War*, which culminated in the rape of the Mormon town of Far West, Joseph Smith encouraged the formation of the secret, oath-bound group called the Danites, *God's Avenging Angels*. Other devout and physically blessed Saints were chosen as a personal bodyguard for the Prophet. Later Lyman Wight, called by his brethren "the wild ram of the mountains, and Sampson Avard formed a select group of volunteers, including these Danites, into the Army of Israel. At first, Avard and some of his group had the confidence of Joseph Smith, but later Smith repudiated Avard, and blamed many overt actions onto this much feared group of activists.

Paul Bailey may bring questioning frowns from some of his Mormon forebears for his frank approach to and appraisals of the human frailties and ambitions of the prophet Smith, the priestly twelve, and the committee of fifty who ruled the church, but to the general reader, these human traits and idiosyncrasies are only pieces to the overall mosaic of history. As we view these leaders of a determined, religious people



we find them to be inspired, resolute men.

Joseph Smith was never a "shrinking violet," and proudly led the great Nauvoo Legion of 5,000 devout followers, astride his black stallion, wearing a gorgeous colored and imbraided uniform while flashing a glittering sword. This military uniform was in keeping with his rank of Lieutenant General — the highest rank in the United States militia. Here was a religious leader blessed with a personal magnetism so great that men would willingly forfeit their lives and fortunes and zealously follow his teachings and revelations which, to the unconverted, were deemed heresy. Here too was an army of fervent believers led by this controversial prophet. This show of military strength, laced with a peculiar economic, political and religious solidarity, not only increased their neighbors' prejudice and distrust, but became a threatening military bulwark within the community around Nauvoo. Fear of this legally deputized army of Saints helped fan the flames of hate, encouraged by apostates, some of whom were vocal and articulate in their denunciations, while other fallen Saints joined any violent opposition. It was the prelude to the assassination of the Prophet Smith and his brother Hyram.

After the murder of Joseph Smith, in accordance with his revelation and plans for the Saints to move west to found a new city of Zion, a leader was sorely needed. From the priestly hierarchy came a stubborn, religiously inspired and determined man to carry forward the prophecies of their martyred prophet. Brigham Young revived the faith and hopes of this maligned, harrassed and depressed people, and completed the removal of the Saints from Nauvoo.

On their journey west, impoverished, suffering unbelievable hardships and sickness, sustained with only their faith in God and trust in their leaders, the Saints wintered at Garden Grove and Council Bluffs. During

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# Artists and Historians

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and Bill Reed of San Diego Corral. Bill made a presentation to the Los Angeles group of a copy of San Diego Corral's beautiful new *Brand Book* now being published.

## DECEMBER MEETING

At the December meeting Ernie Hovard ended his year as deputy sheriff with another of those affairs which have made the year 1968 so outstanding. For the speaker of this meeting, held December 11 at Taix, Ernie presented Col. Herschel C. Logan, one of the outstanding firearm historians of today. His talk was on "Guns . . . An American Heritage." As usual the all-too-small room was filled to capacity with enthusiastic Westerners and their guests.

Col. Logan is the author of a number of books including *Hand Cannon to Automatic*, *Romance of the Old West*, *Cartridges*, *Buckskin and Satin*, *Underhammer Guns*, and is contributor to many publications dealing with guns and their historical perspective. To make the evening even more memorable, he brought along a part of his fabulous collection of weapons, and his own woodcuts and watercolors which have made him famous in another field.

CM Donald Duke, railroad historian, and proprietor of one of the West's most active publishing houses, Golden West Books, presented a display of art and artifacts commemorating the "Coming of the Santa Fe" to California. His short talk and explanation of the old maps, timetables, views and memorabilia were especially well received and appreciated.

As is traditional at the December meeting, outgoing Sheriff August Schatra turned over the sheriff's star of office and the Bonebrake belly gun to incoming Sheriff Ernest Hovard. And once again Westerner Don Perceval presented one of his beautiful paintings to the retiring sheriff. Augie was lucky recipient of one of Don's famed Navajo works.

Especially welcomed at the December meeting was Ex-Sheriff Eddie Edwards, who brought up from the desert the good

wishes of Ex-Sheriff Harvey Johnson. Dr. Harvey, still ill and incapacitated at Yucca Valley, was unable to make the trip. Through Ex-Sheriff Eddie, he expressed his love and interest in Los Angeles Corral. That he is still loved and remembered by Los Angeles Westerners was warmly in evidence. Tom Hawkins was Eddie's guest at the meeting.

A great evening — to end a great year.

## The Western Book Trail

(Continued from Previous Page)

this period of travail an odd opportunity to help the people on their way was proposed to Brigham Young The United States Government, in need of manpower in its war with Mexico, suggested that a volunteer Mormon Battalion be enlisted. First skeptical of this offer, but later seeing it as a *sacrificial ram in the thicket*, Brigham Young called for volunteers.

Paul Bailey's gift of narrative enriches the factual recording of this epic overland march of the famous Mormon Battalion. After reading this chapter I paused to reread Paul Bailey's wonderful novel, *For This My Glory*, in which the hero becomes a volunteer, and experiences the hardship and heartbreak of a soldier of God, and his country on this tedious walk to California.

The chapter of the Utah War throws new light on the military confrontation by the rejuvenated Nauvoo Legion and the United States Army under General Albert Sydney Johnston, commander of the Utah Expedition in 1857. Bailey thoroughly explores the background and political blundering behind this move against Brigham Young and his determined and ambitious moves to set up and rule the separate, religiously oriented state of Deseret within the United States. These political and military moves, viewed in retrospect, make most interesting and informative reading.

The prejudice, the perfidy and political jockeying following General Johnston's peaceful entry into the City of Salt Lake was one more problem for the Saints to face. But face it they did, ending an intriguing military history of an indomitable people.

— HOMER H. BOELTER.