LOS ANGELES WESTERNERS CORRAL
The Branding Iron
J. GOODMAN

DECEMBER 1972 LOS ANGELES CORRAL NUMBER 108


CALIFORNIA
AND ITS
GOLD REGIONS,
WITH
A GEOGRAPHICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL
VIEW OF THE COUNTRY,
ITS
Mineral and Agricultural Resources,
PREPARED FROM
OFFICIAL AND OTHER AUTHENTIC DOCUMENTS,
WITH
A MAP OF THE UNITED STATES
AND
CALIFORNIA,
SHOWING THE ROUTES OF
The United States Mail Steam Packets to California;
ALSO, THE VARIOUS OVERLAND ROUTES.
BY FAYETTE ROBINSON,
Author of "Mexico and her Military Chieftains," &c., &c.
NEW YORK:
STRINGER & TOWNSEND, 222 BROADWAY.
1849.

WESTERN GUIDEBOOKS

By THOMAS F. ANDREWS

The past decade has witnessed an increased amount of research and publication in the area of Western history one might call the "traveler's frontier." Of particular interest to scholars have been the many diaries and journals kept by the land-hungry pioneers of the 1840's and the gold-crazed emigrants of the 1850's. The results of this activity, however, have been a bit one-sided. Nearly all of the overland diaries, guidebooks, letters, and reminiscences edited and published since 1961, for example, concern the Platte River-South Pass route to Oregon and California. Comparatively little attention has been given to the overland trails farther south, to the gold-seekers who traveled them, and especially to the guidebooks which often misinformed and misled their readers. This essay is offered as a small step in that latter direction.

In 1849 the first published guidebook for the southern route to California appeared. It was quickly joined by six others. The seven 1849 guidebooks for the various routes known collectively as the Gila Trail included those by Robert Creuzbaur, J. Disturnell, Charles Foster, Fayette Robinson, E. Sanford Seymour, J. Ely Sherwood, and Charles W. Webber. Three of them, the Disturnell, Robinson, and Sherwood guides, are not listed in the Wagner-Camp

(Continued on Page Three)

The Branding Iron

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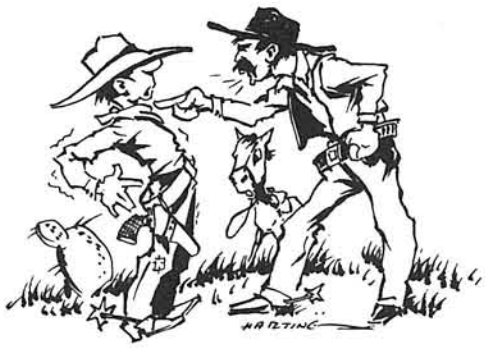
THE BRANDING IRON solicits articles of 1500 words or less, dealing with every phase of the Old West. Contributions from members and friends welcomed.



The Foreman Sez . . .

The year 1972 may go down in history as a vintage year for the *Branding Iron.* For the first time in history the Corral membership received their September issue in August. It is hoped the December issue will be released on time.

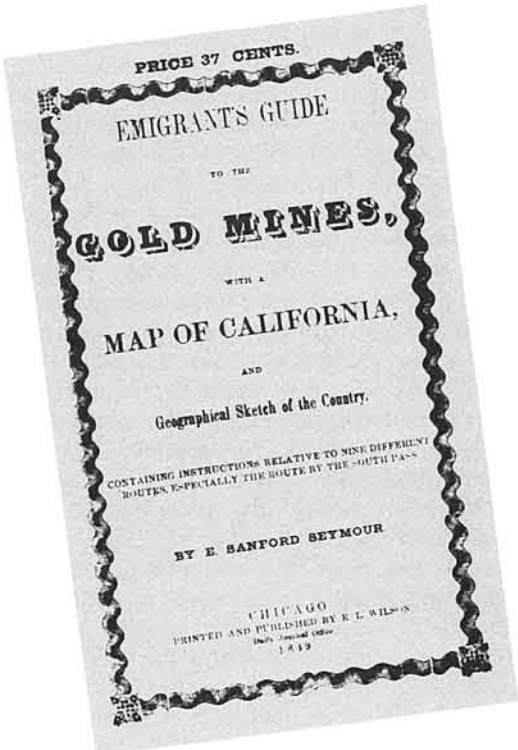
Also at long last the cry for articles and features has opened a few deaf ears or touched your historical hearts. A few typewriters are beginning to smoke, and the dust swept off some old half done articles. Material is coming in now, and we have a little backlog from which to work on. This does not mean you are to sit down on your laurels, but to start writing your New Year's resolutions now and include some effort on behalf of the Corral. Good show crew — keep'em rolling.

While the *Branding Iron* is plugging along, it would appear the *Brand Book* is going the way of the ocean liner and the passenger train. The Brand Book Committee met in mid-November and I trust they will be able to resolve this dilemma. While the committee does have some articles from outside sources, the idea of the *Brand Book* is to include the best of the Corral membership.

Several members have been awarded for their fruits of the vine. Paul Galleher won an outstanding award at the Western History conference and is mentioned elsewhere in this issue. Then artist, Andy Dagosta bagged another "Open Art Award" at the 1972 Death Valley Encampment. His painting of a chuck wagon at work on the plains, with huge thunderheads hanging overhead, captured the delights of the attendance and the awards committee.

bibliography, *The Plains and the Rockies* (1953). Considered as a group, these early Gold Rush guides for the Gila Trail were true to the times, for the first years of the California Gold Rush witnessed a decline in the number of "authentic" guidebooks and an increase in the number of promotional tracts written or compiled by "armchair" emigrants.

Among the earliest guides to be compiled without any personal acquaintance with the overland route being described were Creuzbaur's forty-page pamphlet entitled *Route from the Gulf of Mexico and the Lower Mississippi Valley to California and the Pacific Ocean,* and Disturnell's *The Emigrant's Guide to New Mexico, California, and Oregon.* Creuzbaur's guide, probably the first to promote travel along the Gila Trail, contained two pages of fairly substantial practical advice to prospective emigrants. The rest of the text was compiled from the "best authorities": Frémont, Emory, Cooke, etc. Less valuable to the emigrant was Disturnell's guide, a hodgepodge of descriptive material from various sources, including Bryant, Frémont, Cooke, Kearny, etc. Although Disturnell also focused his attention upon the Gila Trail, he strongly advised the emigrant not to attempt the overland trek without a copy of Joseph Ware's 1849 guide in hand – a guide written, strangely enough, for the Platte River-South Pass route.


PRICE 37 CENTS.

EMIGRANTS GUIDE

TO THE

GOLD MINES,

WITH A

MAP OF CALIFORNIA,

AND

Geographical Sketch of the Country.

CONTAINING INSTRUCTIONS RELATIVE TO NINE DIFFERENT ROUTES, ESPECIALLY THE ROUTE BY THE SOUTH PASS

BY E. SANFORD SEYMOUR

CHICAGO
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY R. L. WILSON
1849

More interesting than either of these was a third guidebook – again authored by someone who had not been overland – Robinson's *California and Its Gold Regions.* His information on outfitting was helpful though his advice concerning the choice of a route was misleading. Indeed, Robinson had difficulty making up his mind as to the best route overland to California. He first states, "If I were to start to California, with my knowledge of the country, and a prairie experience of many years, it would be by what is termed the northern route" (p. 88). A few pages later he declares that General Kearny's route "will long continue to be the favorite overland route to California" (p. 96). Then after mentioning Cooke's improvement of that route, the author fearlessly exclaims, "I have no hesitation in saying, after a careful examination, that the route by Major Cooke to California is undoubtedly the best" (p. 98). On the very next page he recommends the Fort Gibson-Arkansas-Red River route where the emigrant can be "accompanied almost all the way by ripening strawberries" (p. 99). But the classic blunder appears in his comments on the Platte River-South Pass trail: "The route here referred to passes round Bent's Fort, and is far too near to New Mexico to by anything like the direct road to California" (p. 100).

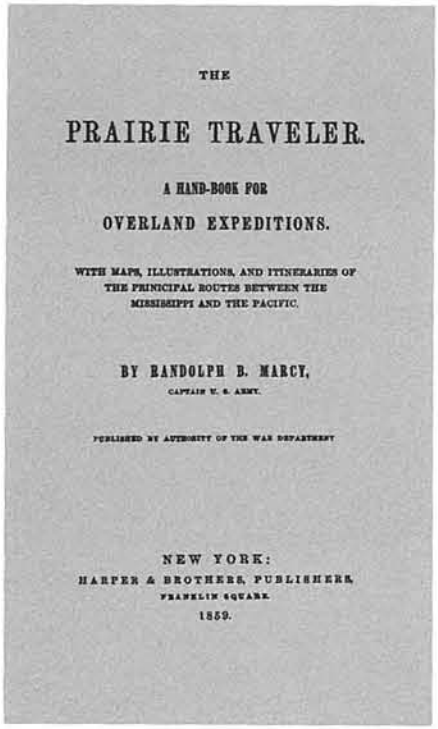
Two other 1849 guidebooks of limited value for travelers along the Gila Trail were Sherwood's *The Pocket Guide to California* and Webber's *The Gold Mines of the Gila.* Sherwood focuses almost entirely upon the Platte River-South Pass route but does list a general table of distances "via New Mexico." The Sherwood guide is of more interest because of the author's proposed "aerial route to the gold mines of California." Webber, on the other hand, offered to lead a "Centralia Exploring Expedition" of sixty men by the more down-to-earth means of horseback and muleback travel. He only proposed following the Gila River, however, "until we find a practicable route directly north-west to San Francisco."

(Continued on Next Page)

Imparting more substantial advice to the emigrant was Seymour's *Emigrant's Guide to the Gold Mines of Upper California.* Seymour described nine routes to the gold fields, including a route via "Texas and Mexico," a route via the "Arkansas," and a route via "the River Gila." His advice to the emigrants was the most substantial of the 1849 guides. Seymour himself came overland in 1849, but via the South Pass route, in company with J. Goldsborough Bruff. Generally speaking, then, the 1849 guides were as inadequate for travelers along the Gila as they were for emigrants along the Platte. There is some justification for the former situation, however, as the Gila Trail had hardly been used by overland traffic prior to 1849 – at least not by settler-emigrants who kept diaries – and no guidebooks had been published to promote travel along its various branches before 1849.

The 1850's witnessed the publication of fewer but better written and more accurate guides for travelers along southwestern trails. (By way of contrast, the Platte River-South Pass trail was the recipient of more guides in the fifties than in the forties.) In 1850 Lieutenant James H. Simpson published his *Report of the Route from Fort Smith, Arkansas, Santa Fe, New Mexico,* a very good guide as far as it went. Simpson attempted to give the location and availability of "wood, water, and grass" along the route. Six years were to pass before the next satisfactory guide was published, Colonel Andrew B. Gray's *Survey of the Route for the Southern Pacific Railroad on the 32nd Parallel.* Gray covered in a fairly detailed manner the entire route between El Paso and San Diego.

But it remained for Captain Randolph B. Marcy to author the most complete guidebook for the various southwestern trails, though it was not published until 1859 – at the very end of the decade. Marcy's *Prairie Traveler* provided the most detailed information yet on the following routes: Fort Smith to Santa Fe, Fort Smith to El Paso, Fort Leavenworth to Santa Fe, San Antonio to El Paso, Fort Yuma to San Diego, El Paso to Fort Yuma, and Albuquerque to the Colorado River. Marcy's guide, written and published at the request of the War Department, remained the standard authority on overland travel via the southern


THE

PRAIRIE TRAVELER.

A HAND-BOOK FOR

OVERLAND EXPEDITIONS.

WITH MAPS, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND ITINERARIES OF THE PRINICIPAL ROUTES BETWEEN THE MISSISSIPPI AND THE PACIFIC.

BY RANDOLPH B. MARCY,

CAPTAIN U. S. ARMY.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT

NEW YORK:
HARPER & BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS,
FRANKLIN SQUARE.
1859.

route to California until the completion of the Southern Pacific railroad. Unfortunately, the substantial information on outfitting, method of travel, and organization of companies, etc., came a decade too late to help the nearly nine thousand 49'ers who crossed the Gila Trail to California.

What tentative conclusions may be drawn from so brief a treatment of Southwestern guidebooks? Like many of their Platte River-South Pass counterparts, few of the Gila guidebooks provided accurate information about the more difficult portions of the route – the 80 mile desert between Tucson and the Pima Indian villages, or the even greater hazards to be found between the Pima villages and San Diego, for example. In direct contrast to the emigrant experience along the Platte River route during the Gold Rush, furthermore, few Gila River emigrants appear to have relied on guidebooks, hence few complained about inaccurate, dated guides. The Gila guidebooks, too, paid little attention to the surrounding countryside – again in contrast to the Platte River-South Pass guides. Derogatory comments about Mexicans and Indians were also ever-present. Incidently, a study has long been needed that would seek to determine the influence of the guidebook upon the development of certain racial and

Page Four . . .

religious stereotypes in the American West. Such a study must necessarily consider the Gila guides. Finally, the guidebook literature along Southwestern trails proved more valuable to the coming of the railroad than it ever did to the goldseekers passing through.

For the historian who seeks to understand the impact of overland travel upon the eventual settlement and development of the present states of Arizona and New Mexico, the guidebooks and diaries of the Southwestern trails must be studied in an interrelated manner along with the other available data. Only then can the Gila Trail take its rightful place alongside its two more historically-visible neighbors—the Santa Fe and Platte River trails.

(Guide cover illustrations courtesy of the Huntington Library & Art Gallery)

Galleher Word Mine Produces Gold!

"What is Your Membership Worth to You?" was the topic of a paper presented to the Corral just one year ago by Paul Galleher. The topic and the presentation were so moving, not a single wine glass moved. This paper so motivated your Roundup Foreman that the entire address was printed in the December 1971 issue of the *Branding Iron* published earlier this year.

When Paul Galleher gave his paper, he was trying to get across to the Corral that many were not living up to the principles to which the Westerner movement was established. The monthly Corral meetings were not intended to be a knife-and-fork club to which the gathering came to be entertained each month. Paul gave it right from the heart. He meant every word of it.

This message so stirred the Westerners International that Galleher was awarded one of three prizes at the Western History Association annual conference in New Haven last October. In presenting Paul the $100 award, Leland Case, President of the Westerners International, stated, "The five-man Award Jury found high merit in your paper as a literary effort. But what pleased us even more was the personal testimony you gave to the Westerner idea which, as you know, fits a Corral into the organizational spectrum somewhere between a Rotary Club and a historical society with certain attributes of both."

The entire Los Angeles Corral is honored that Paul Galleher should receive such an award. If this wasn't enough, Paul turns around and presents his $100.00 check to the Corral at the November meeting. In presenting the award to the Corral he stated, "I would like to donate this check to the Corral in the hope it might encourage others to write something for the *Branding Iron*." Three cheers for Paul Galleher, one who truly lives up to the spirit to which the Westerner movement was founded.

Corresponding Members Welcomed by Corral

The Westerners, Los Angeles Corral, extends the welcome mat to the following new Corresponding Members. They are: Baylor Brooks, San Diego; Louis E. Colteryahn, Santa Ana; Charles S. Cushman, Canoga Park; Donald Deschner, Hollywood; Mack S. Harbin, Canoga Park; Charles Heiskell, M.D., Los Alamitos; Roger E. Henn, Chicago, Illinois; W. Eugene Hollon, Toledo, Ohio; Roy L. Kidman, Palos Verdes; Joseph M. O'Malley, Hollywood; Frank Q. Newton, Jr., Arcadia; R. J. Nicholson, Long Beach; Robert J. Phillips, San Diego; Robert L. Stevens, Tarzana; Donald A. Stevning, Indio.

. . . *Page Five*

Tragedy at Rancho Cucamonga

By Ronald Dean Miller

It all began in September 1856, when Don Isaac Williams died, leaving to his daughters, Maria Merced and Francisca, the entire Rancho Santa Ana del Chino, its improvements and its livestock. This fine tract of land, known for its rich soil and abundant water supply, had originally been filed as a grant by Maria Merced's grandfather, Don Antonio Maria Lugo. Half of the rancho had been given to his son-in-law, Isaac Williams, and five or six years later he deeded the remaining half to his two grand-daughters.

Only a few weeks after her father's death, Maria Merced married a southerner named John Rains, who had arrived in California around 1849. He dealt in livestock and drove sheep from New Mexico to California across the Colorado Desert, which he claimed to have crossed fifteen times. He lived at Temecula for some time, acting as Indian sub-agent and taking care of Williams' stock on shares. By the Williams will, he was made the guardian of Isaac's illegitimate children.

Rains immediately took charge of the Chino Rancho, and when the property was surveyed in 1858 by the United States Government, he represented the Williams sisters in determining where the lines should be run between it and the adjoining ranchos.

Francisca Williams, the youngest daughter, married Robert S. Carlisle, another southerner. In 1859, Carlise purchased Mrs. Rains' interest in the Chino Rancho for $25,000, and the livestock was divided between the two sisters. There were about 10,000 head of cattle, 4,000 sheep and 500 horses.

With part of the money from the sale, Rains purchased Cucamonga Rancho from the Prudhommes. He paid $8,500 for it. In order to secure clear title, he had to pay $8,000 more to Jose Valdez, who had been willed some land by the original grantee.

The Tapia-Prudhomme adobe fort on Red Hill was abandoned and Rains built a new home high on the banks of the arroyo, north of the vineyard. He spared no expense in building this home, which consisted of two large and west wings to the main south frontage, with a spacious patio in the center. The bricks used for the walls were made of red clay dug from Red Hill. The roof was made of thatches covered with tar from what is now called Brea Tar Pits. With this tar, tallow was mixed. A

MARIA MERCED RAINS

Page Six . . .

stream gurgled through the kitchen, entering the room through a floor-level opening in the wall, flowing past the wood-burning stove and adobe oven, to exit through the opposite wall – a very handy disposal.

While this home was under construction, the families of both of Williams' daughters lived together in the Chino ranch house. In 1861, Rains and his family moved into the new brick house on Rancho Cucamonga. The Carlisles continued living at Chino Rancho.

John Rains spent $75,000 of his wife's money on improvements and his new home at Cucamonga Rancho. A store, blacksmith shop, stables and several homes were built close by. The small still and winery were enlarged and improved. According to the Los Angeles *Star,* the vineyard was laid out in 10 acre lots with roads two rods wide between them. In the center was a four-acre square occupied by the wine press, cellars and dwellings.

By his marriage, John Rains was lifted from the status of an humble worker to that of the husband of a wealthy heiress. Developing personal ambitions, he went into politics and, in 1860, traveled to Charleston, South Carolina as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. There he took his stand with other California delegates beside the ultra-Southern, pro-slavery Democrats. Rains was not careful in how he displayed his sympathy for the Southern cause. The Los Angeles reporter for the *Alta California* referred to him as: "John Rains, the Secessionist, whose zeal furnished several members of General A. S. Johnston's party and others with horses and money to expedite their transit into Secessiondo."

A January 10, 1862, entry in Judge Benjamin Hayes' diary states: "An officer and twenty men appeared at the rancho Coco-Monga for that purpose of arresting John Rains Esquire. Mr. Rains dislikes to return to his rancho, understanding as he does that the design was to convey him prisoner to Fort Yuma." Rains and his family were away from home at the time of the military call, and the attempted arrest was not repeated.

In 1861 the Rains moved into this brick house on Rancho Cucamonga.
— Security Pacific Bank Collection

. . . *Page Seven*

JOHN RAINS

As if to add insult to injury, a thousand head of cattle contracted to the Army in Tucson disappeared en route. This loss, coupled with others, threatened to ruin financially the empire Rains had built with his wife's money.

On November 17, 1862, John Rains left Rancho Cucamonga, driving a team and wagon towards Los Angeles. Near the Mud Springs stage station, he was brutally murdered. There were sensational accusations and counter-accusations. Wild rumors were started. The apparent effort to conceal evidence and unsatisfying explanations leaves the killing of John Rains a mystery to the present day.

Twelve days after the murder, the Los Angeles *Star* published an account of the events that took place. Rains had left home on Monday. Before leaving, he had made plans to go to Temecula on Thursday. Going to a drawer to get the pistols he usually carried, he discovered them missing. No one could tell him where they were, so he left without them.

His horses returned to Cucamonga on Wednesday without their harness. On Friday, the men he was supposed to have contacted in Los Angeles arrived at the Rancho and asked for him. It was then that an alarm was given, and Robert Carlisle started a search immediately.

On Sunday morning, the Sheriff of Los Angeles left with a large posse to join the hunt. According to the *Star* of November 29, 1862, on Monday or Tuesday the wagon was found in some bushes. The harness was hanging in a tree, and nearby they found Rains' blood-stained hat and overcoat. Friday, eleven days after his disappearance, Rains' body was found in a cactus patch four hundred yards from the road. He had been lassoed by his right arm, shot four times and dragged to the spot where his body was found. The sheriff and posse were of one mind that the murder was not committed for the purpose of robbery. They believed it was clearly a premeditated plan. The lassoing showed it had been done by Californios trained in the arts and practices of stockmen.

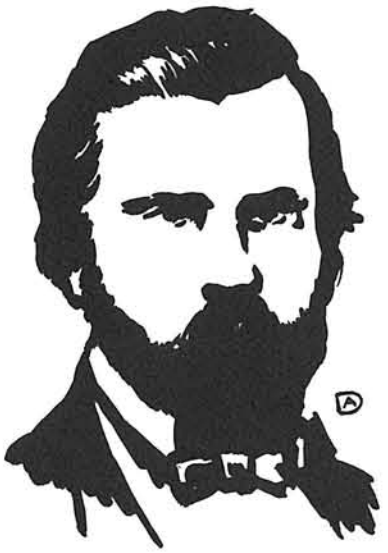
Maria Merced was not alone for long, for Ramon Carrillo quickly came upon the scene. He had been looking after her cattle on the Warner Ranch, but after Rains' death he moved to Cucamonga and became her advisor.

Carrillo came from a good family. He mixed in California affairs and was with the Californios at the battle of Chino. The year before, he had fought against the Bear Flag Revolt. Around the year of 1850, he married Vicenta Sepulveda, the widow of Tomas Yorba. Carrillo lived for a time on his wife's rancho, near what is now Santa Ana. Friends said he was "gentle as a lamb; there was always on his face a peculiar smile, which indicated his good nature." He was fond of adventure and enjoyed hunting bears with a lasso and knife, using his saddle bag as a shield. Since many people suspected him of killing Rains, he asked the District Court to investigate him, and was exonerated.

After Rains' death, E. K. Dunlap was appointed administrator of the Rains estate. The widow brought suit to have the properties, in which her inheritance had been invested, declared her separate property. All of it, including the Bella Union Hotel in Los Angeles, was carried in John Rains' name only. Jonathan R. Scott, attorney for both Rains and his wife, testified that this arrangement had been on his advice. Mrs. Rains was inexperienced in business, childlike and dependent on others for guidance. She was very temperamental. Testimony was given showing that she was unaware that the property was in her husband's name until after his death. Rains had spoken

to Scott several times, asking him to prepare the necessary transfer papers, but he was murdered before they could be signed. There was never any question about her right to it, but much was said regarding suspicion that she was implicated in the murder.

In March 1863, Judge Hayes, who had been hearing the suit, gave judgment in favor of Mrs. Rains. Two days later, she gave power of attorney to her brother-in-law, Robert Carlisle. He tried to clear her debt-ridden property, but immediately clashed with Carrillo over his policies. Control of 5,000 head of cattle, when Civil War operations were buying large supplies of beef, was a prize worth fighting over, and Carlisle realized he was losing the battle.



ROBERT CARLISLE

Judge Hayes was defeated for his third term in 1863. He retired from the bench and Mrs. Rains hired him as her attorney. Under his guidance, in February 1864, she started suit to revoke Carlisle's power-of-attorney, alleging fraud on his part in securing it, since she read it in English and did not know that it was irrevocable.

Financially, she was in desperate circumstances. The mortgage on her property was being foreclosed, and she had no means to meet her household expenses. Judge Hayes wrote: "She borrows money now and then, of Old Mr. William Rubottom (who lives as a renter on Cucamonga). And her sisters, Refugia, Concepcion and Victoria, wash and iron for the work-hands of the vineyard, and with this money she purchases things, necessary for her substance, sometimes."

Ramon Carrillo wrote to his brother in April 1864, saying: "The person who has always persecuted me is a man by the name of Bob Carlisle. He does not do it personally, but through others paid by him. . . . He is trying to get the power which I have from the widow herself, who is the absolute owner of the property. I am resolved to protect her, if it costs me my life."

Carrillo's fears were soon realized. One day in May, Mrs. Rains was driving in her carriage west of the Cucamonga stage station. Ramon was riding horseback beside her when he was shot from ambush. Regaining his feet after falling from his horse, he sent Maria Merced to safety and walked a thousand yards to Rubottom's tavern, where he finally fell. He was carried into the tavern only to die in a few hours.

A gunman named Lewis Love had been staying at the tavern for several weeks. He had no apparent reason for being there, but was friendly with Dunlap and Carlisle. Love had threatened Ramon earlier and disappeared when Carrillo was shot. A witness saw him fire the shots, so Hayes swore out a complaint. Love was arrested in San Francisco and delivered to the sheriff of San Bernardino County. In September, the grand jury declared there was insufficient evidence to convict him. Sheriff Wilkes said that Carrillo "persisted to the last that it was Viall and Gillette, the Postmaster." The grand jury investigated these two men, and refused to indict them.

American feelings began to concentrate on Mrs. Rains. Because of the tense situation, Judge Hayes applied for a military guard of fifteen dragoons to be stationed on the ranch.

On May 27, 1864, Mrs. Rains wrote to Judge Hayes: "You cannot imagine how sorry and excited I am. It is impossible for me to sit down and write you the matter how it happened, but we are sure that money was what done it. I have to do a arrangement about having another one here with me. It is impossible for me to be amongst so many thieves and murderers. I wish and hope to settle my business. I wish to clean everybody out of the place. Re-

. . . Page Nine

ceive a heart filled with grief of Maria Merced Williams de Rains."

Hostility of the Americans toward her continued to grow. Captain Wilkes gave her protection of the sheriff's office, but conditions became so bad he felt he had to resign his office in order to retain his "friendship" for Mrs. Rains.

There were many threats against Mrs. Rains. One evening a number of Rains' personal friends, all armed, gathered at the Rubottom Tavern to eat supper. Eavesdropping, Rubottom learned that they had come to lynch Mrs. Rains. Rubottom, his son, and a son-in-law armed themselves and waited in an adjoining room. While the men ate, Rubottom covered them with a double-barreled shotgun. He informed them that they would not be allowed to hang Mrs. Rains without a trial. He had his son disarm the men and told them their guns would be returned at a later date, one at a time. The men did not revive their plan to lynch Mrs. Rains.

On June 6, Judge Hayes wrote to Mrs. Rains, saying: "I hear from you frequently through the kindness of Captain H. Wilkes and I have to thank him for attention and services to you, which I have not been able to render. I have been waiting for a movement of the principal creditors, for your benefit. I am aware of the plan which some have had, to involve Cucamonga so deeply in debt that they might finally divide it out amongst themselves. It is not necessary for anyone to advise me of the designs which several have against your property – to accomplish which design the better, they have not spared your reputation – that which is the most valuable thing that can belong to one of your sex. You are in infinite trouble, I know. Rarely has a woman – defenseless herself – been exposed to such injury as has been visited upon you. But, under kind Providence, you will, I doubt not, come safely out of this affliction and trial. For yourself, try to maintain your wonted cheerfulness."

In June 1864, Mrs. Rains placed a $5,000 second mortgage on the Cucamonga vineyard. Ten days later, she married Jose Carrillo, a brother of Ramon. Judge Hayes received a letter from Captain Wilkes saying: "You might as well try to stop a mountain torrent as to turn her will when she has it set on any particular purpose."

Two days after the wedding, Judge Hayes received a letter from Mrs. Carrillo saying: "Judge, please write to me and tell me what I must do so no one will have anything to say." How immature and naive was Maria Merced! Judge Hayes had been sure she would marry Captain Wilkes. On June 20, Judge Hayes wrote to John Brown: "Ere this, you have heard of the marriage of Mrs. Rains to Jose Carrillo. I really thought the Captain had serious intentions, but it appears not. I wish heartily that she had married the Captain. It would have been better for her pecuniary interests."

Matters at Cucamonga Rancho went from bad to worse. On November 4, Senora Rains-Carrillo wrote to Judge Hayes: "We have received the papers of the foreclosure on the mortgage on Cucamonga, so I send you the papers – by a good man. I did not send them by the stage, for I did not have confidence. Judge, I depend on you in all my business. Do not discourage me if you see there is any chance to save the whole ranch, but if not, let us save a homestead. What would become of us if I were to lose Cucamonga with such a large family?"

Maria did lose Cucamonga to the creditors in 1870, but her life did not end in tragedy. Her daughter, Francisca Victoria Rains, born after her father's death, married Henry T. Gage, a promising lawyer who won the governorship of California in 1899. The family residence was on Gage Avenue in Los Angeles, and Maria Merced spent her last years in comfort there.

Corral Chips

Sampling Bay Area bookstores and wines, a large group of Westerners who are also members of the Zamorano Club journeyed to San Francisco recently for two days of literature and libations. Participants included *John Goodman, Ray Billington, Everett Hager, Doyce Nunis, Tony Lehman, John Kemble, Earl Adams, Bill Kimes, Jim Algar, Henry Clifford, Carl Dentzel, George Fullerton, Hugh Tolford, John Urabec,* and C.M's *Charlie Clarke, Earl Nation,* and *Ed Carpenter.*

Associate Member *Dan Thrapp,* who serves as religious editor for the Los Angeles *Times,* is honored by being named a Fellow of the Religious Public Relations Council.

After ten years as dean of graduate studies at Long Beach State University, Associate Member *Halvor G. Melom* has resigned and will return to the classroom to teach courses in his specialty areas—American colonial and revolutionary history and U.S. economic history.

Taking over the helm from *Wade Kittell, Ward DeWitt* becomes the new president of the Long Beach Historical Society. Long live the Queen – Mary, that is!

Tony Lehman dips his pen in grape juice and writes of "Vines and Vintners in the Pomona Valley" for the Spring issue of the *Southern California Quarterly.*

The 23rd Annual Death Valley Encampment is successfully presided over by Production Chairman *Hugh Tolford,* aided on the distaff side by Mrs. *William H. Newbro,* who was in charge of reception and information. A goodly crew of Westerners serves as Directors for the Death Valley '49ers, among them *Paul Bailey,* C.M. *Bill Bender, George Koenig, Don Meadows, Sid Platford, George Sturtevant, Don Torguson,* and C.M. *Ardis Walker.*

The dean of the National Park Service, *Horace Albright,* is deservedly made an Honorary Member of the Los Angeles Corral. Congratulations, Horace.

Garnering awards is nothing new for Westerners, but it is quite a day when three of them are honored at one time. This happened not long ago when Deputy Sheriff *Doyce Nunis,* Registrar of Marks and Brands *Everett Hager,* and member *Bob Cowan* received Certificates of Merit from the Historical Society of Southern California for their contributions to the field of Western Americana.

Always down to the sea in a ship, nautical *John Kemble* books passage as speaker to the Zamorano Club, relating the bookish aspects of his recent cruise around South America on a Norwegian freighter.

Two distinguished Westerners, *Donald Duke* and *Doyce Nunis,* have their names and accomplishments impressively detailed in the latest issue of *Who's Who in the West.*

The Genealogical Society of Siskiyou County was entertained by Associate Member *Dwight Cushman* who spoke on "The Mayflower Pilgrims, Spiritual Ancestors of All Americans." Dwight, himself an Elder of the California State Society of Mayflower Descendants, has spent the last eight summers out of the smog in the tiny Siskiyou burg of Cecilville.

A miniature book titled *The Legend of Roy Bean's Bear* is authored by C.M. *Jac Crawford* and illustrated by Cactus *Jack Jeffrey.* Interestingly enough, the volume is printed on an 1878 hand press. Bibliophiles take note!

Ray Billington pens the first of a new series of pamphlets to be published by the American Historical Association, an incisive account of "The Amerian Frontier Thesis: Attack and Defense."

A big Westerner round of thanks is in order for *Homer Boelter* for donating to the Corral one-hundred copies each of two of our organization's earliest keepsake publications: Keepsake No. 2 (1949) Brininstool's "Logic of Sitting Bull," and Keepsake No. 3 (1949) Upham's "Ye Ancient Yuba Miner." Both will be available to members for a modest two dollars. Contact Tom McNeill if you would like to obtain a copy.

. . . Page Eleven

Several members of the Los Angeles Corral did a heap of traveling to attend the Western History Association conference held in New Haven, Connecticut, during October 11-14. Among those attending were Ray Billington, Arthur Clark (newly elected member of the WHA Council), Dudley Gordon, Everett Hager, Richard Mohr, and Doyce Nunis who gave a paper on "The Printing Arts in Twentieth-Century California." Associates Thomas Andrews (chaired a session on conservation), George Geiger and Colonel Clarence C. Clendenen made the trek.

Finally, the Assistant Roundup Foreman would like to thank all of those people who have sent in material to be used in this column. Let's keep those corral chips flying!

THE MONTHLY ROUNDUP

Over the past several months the Corral enjoyed several fine programs and another whiz-bang Rendezvous. W. Eugene Hollon examined some of the myths of frontier violence in his August presentation entitled "Some Origins of Frontier Violence." Wrangler Allen Willett was on hand for some excellent exhibits based on the theme of the speaker.

The annual Rendezvous held at the home of Past Sheriff Al Miller was enjoyed by all. The food was the best to date, and the bartenders emptied all the bottles of spirits. The Corral auction was a huge success and Hager's Treasure Chest was hauled away by a Brinks Armored vehicle. All was orderly except for the small fire started by Iron Eyes Cody while smoking "knickinick" in the tepee. George Fullerton (one of our founding fathers) and Horace Albright were presented plaques for their service to the Los Angeles Corral.

A word of appreciation is extended to Al Miller who puts up with the crowd once a year. Corral members polish his chairs, wear out his grass, walk all over his flowers, desecrate his garden with old wine bottles and beer cans, and even fall into his swimming pool, but year after year he asks for more. Al Miller deserves a plaque for putting up with you clods. A word of thanks too to all those who donated items for the auction, and a special thanks to the artists who contributed original art work which kept Hager smiling and wringing his hands all afternoon. Must have poor circulation!

Not everyone sat around drinking firewater. The following Corral members kept their shoe leather polished and throats dry. The expert auctioneers were: William Kimes, Paul Galleher, Hugh Tolford and Allen Willett. Auction runners consisted of Tony Lehman, Stanley Malora, Wade Kittell, and Bob Zamboni. Watching the totals were accountants Tom Andrews and Ed Parker. Breathing fire over the whole crew was Doyce Nunis, acting as Ramrod.

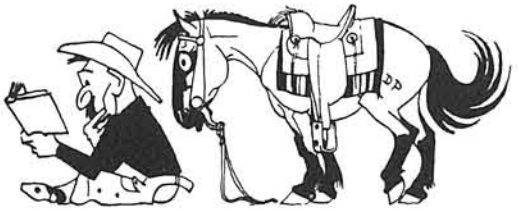
Our longtime member and former Sherrif Henry Clifford shared with the Corral his recently acquired collection of papers of Augustin W. Hale who came around the Horn in the *Pacific* and became involved in

Ernest Sloaman points to Henry (Hank) Clifford's Rubber Two Dollar Bill as he introduces the smiling historian to the Corral.
— Iron Eyes Cody Photograph

the northern mines in Trinity and Siskiyou counties. Hank had on display at this October event many artifacts of the gold country.

At the November meeting (LEFT-RIGHT) Deputy Sheriff Doyce Nunis, speaker Edward E. Harnagel, M.D., past Sheriff Alden Miller, and Sheriff Earl Adams. —Iron Eyes Cody Photograph

The Corral was honored in November to have Edward E. Harnagel, M.D., a Corresponding member, present an illustrated program entitled, "The Life and Times of Walter R. Lindley, M.D. Early Los Angeles Physician."



DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL . . .

POLYGAMY WAS BETTER THAN MONOTONY, by Paul Bailey, 200 pp. Westernlore Press, 1972. $7.95

When an individual reads through a multitude of books annually, especially with an eye to reviewing some of them in print, there is a tendency to approach yet another volume with a lackadaisical, here we go again attitude. And, alas, all too frequently this absence of enthusiasm is justified by what turns out to be just another dull and tedious tome by the ever-prolific Mr. Dry-as-dust.

Thank heavens this description does *not* fit *Polygamy Was Better Than Monotony.* No way. From the very beginning this gem of a book captured my attention and kept me reading to the end with both gusto and delight.

The title of the volume, along with the dedication "to my grandfathers and their plural wives," would suggest that the book is concerned with the odd, unconventional lives led by the author's polygamous Mormon forbearers in nineteenth-century Utah. And to a certain extent this is true. Considerable space is devoted to the history of the Boston aristocrat Grandpa who came west, adopted the Mormon faith, and stayed on to become the highly respected "Professor," and also to the other Grandpa, who migrated from England as a youth, crossed the plains three times, and who played an important role in rescuing the dying handcart companies. Each, following the custom of the period and place, was a "cohab," and each served time in the Utah Territorial Penitentiary for hanging on to their several wives in what the Federal government called "lewd and lascivious cohabitation."

In reality, however, *Polygamy Was Better Than Monotony* is the warm, rollicking, and often deeply moving autobiography of an interesting and talented human being—Paul Bailey himself. From his birth in the tiny Utah town of American Fork, until his founding of the highly respected Westernlore Press here in Southern California, the experiences that have provided him with a fascinating and richly varied life—though not devoid of tragedy—are engrossingly traced.

Calling himself "the black-headed thorn lodged between two younger brothers," the author's early years were highlighted by several memorable occurrences. In the first place there is the uproariously funny account of his circumcision for medical reasons at age eight. Though not an ordinary subject for mirth, the whole affair is rendered comical by an adroit use of language, balancing high-flown rhetoric and circumlocutions on the one hand with the earthiness of four-letter expletives on the other.

(*Continued on Page Fifteen*)

In Remembrance

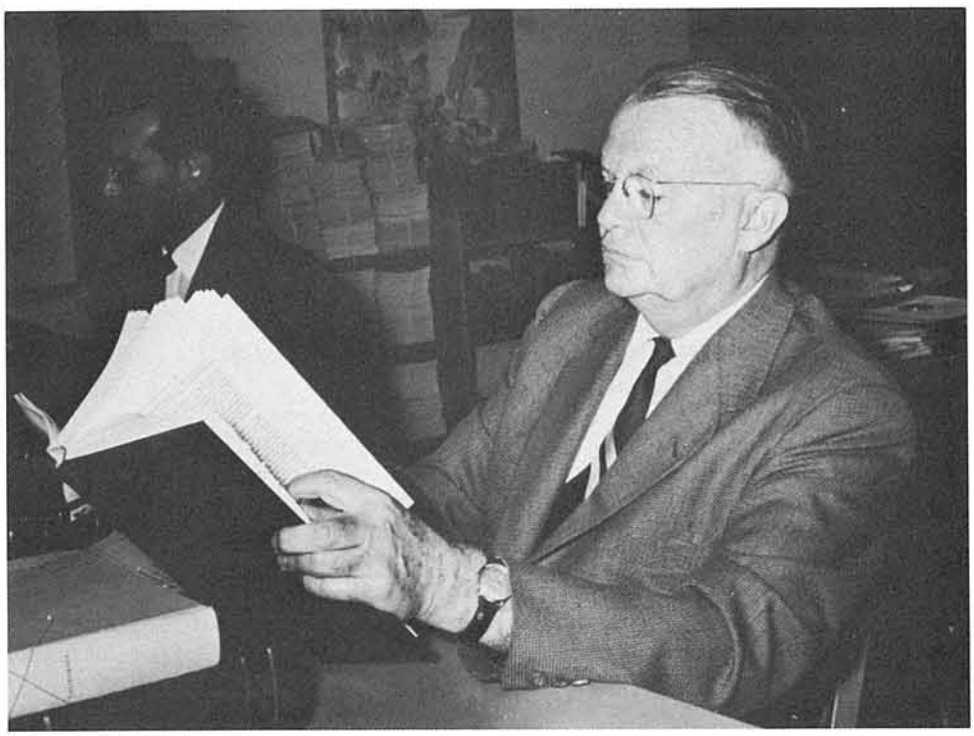
W. W. ROBINSON
1891 - 1972

W. W. Robinson certainly qualifies to be considered among that small group of extraordinary Westerners. He was among the founding members of the Los Angeles Corral – always taking an active interest in its activities, often playing important roles. As one of the few "Old Timers" left, his sudden death occurring unexpectedly on September 1, 1972, shocked his many friends throughout California and the nation.

It was during one of his last visits at the Westerners meeting that he was presented with the Award of Merit which had been bestowed upon him by the American Association for State and Local History for his "outstanding contributions to local history." The standing ovation he received that evening at the April 12th dinner meeting at the Corral warmed his heart in showing him the high regard in which his Westerners companions held him. He has been the recipient of many other honors and awards, and despite the fact he was constantly called upon for advice and counsel he remained a charming, helpful, humane being, loved and appreciated by all who met him or were fortunate to be associated with him.

In his long association with the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners he served the group in many ways. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Southwest Museum, as well as a member of the Board of the Friends of the Huntington Library. His monthly column on western books in *Westways* reflected his broad experience as a book man and his thorough knowledge as a historian.

Will Robinson's contributions to the field of natural history in general and local history in particular are almost incalculable. Born in Trinidad, Colorado, on May 1, 1891, Will and his family moved to Riverside in 1899. From that time until the day of his death he was an enthusiastic Californian. His life and remarkable contributions to the field of history were the sub-



Robinson judges book received by Rounce & Coffin Club for the annual Western Book Award.

Robinson is nearly buried under letters requesting his *Panorama* — A Pictorial History of Southern California. (BELOW) Noting the Los Angeles scene, Robinson checks his notes.

ject of an appreciative publication several years ago, *W. W. Robinson: A Biography and Bibliography*, by Jimmie Hicks.

Westerners will long remember "W. W." for his own lovable nature and generous characteristics as much as for his writings, erudition and inspiring companionship. He left his talented wife, Irene, who as a renowned artist illustrated many of the books the Robinsons had done together. To her the Westerners send sincerest condolences and share her great loss. The Corral's deepest love and affection are extended to Will's widow and family.

— Carl Schaefer Dentzel.

Book Trail . . .

The description of Paul Bailey's baptism is equally humorous, for on this supposedly solemn occasion – which marks the confirmation of a boy into the Mormon faith – the loose tobacco from the young reprobate's overall pockets floated to the surface during his total immersion, staining the water in a tell-tale way and "contaiminating the Lord's holy purpose," much to the chagrin of the exposed "saint."

There was tragedy, too, in his life. The Bailey home burned down one night in a horrible conflagration, described through youthful eyes with a realism and intensity that is chilling. His mother was understandably hysterical with fear, while his father alternately screeched and bawled as though he had gone crazy. Things looked bleak to the destitute family for a while until neighbors, true to the Mormon tradition of helping their own, pitched in with money, material, and labor to help rebuild.

We also learn about the permanent injury to the author's left eye, obtained in a pleasurable winter game of "shinny," a diversion much like ice hockey where cottonwood clubs are used to propel a small-sized milk can as a puck. His friend, Clyde Bascom, took a wild swing and connected with Paul Bailey's left eye. Ironically, the bitterly painful wound was only treated with such home remedies as a poultice made of damp tea leaves and with the old standby of raw beefsteak – incredibly useless treatment for what turned out to be a detached retina.

Other singular episodes stand out dramatically in the reader's mind as he savors each page in this remarkable personal narrative. There is, for example, the author's first cruel encounter with religious prejudice when he moves with his family to Oregon and is viciously "worked over" by the school bully because he is a Mormon.

Equally vivid in its relation is the period in his life when, as a young man, Paul Bailey worked as a hospital orderly. Part of his duties included keeping the corpses iced until either the undertaker or the autopsy surgeon arrived. Later, he was also given the macabre and distasteful task of "corking the stiff," a procedure whose details I leave to the inquiry of the curious.

All was not unpleasant at the hospital, however, for it was there that he first met

Evelyn Robison, a young student nurse and later the author's devoted wife.

The temptation is to go on and on, drawing attention to other outstanding portions of this book's rich fabric: the touching portrait of his father, for example, burdened with a large family and never really accepted by his wife's proud relatives; and the unabashedly candid appraisal of the Mormon movement today with which the book concludes, a section likely to rouse the wrath of some.

But one must stop. For those of us who have the good fortune to know Paul Bailey, here is further delightful insight into this complex, compassionate, and intensely creative man. For those who have yet to make his acquaintance, what better introduction than this warm, witty, and immensely enjoyable book.

— Tony Lehman.

Mission San Fernando, by Marie Harrington. San Fernando Historical Society, 1972. $2.00

Mission San Fernando is a 35-page handy and informative guide to the buildings, museums, and library of this beautiful historic mission. Rare photos, mostly from Mrs. Harrington's collection, embellish this pamphlet but, alas, they deserve better printing and proof reading.

Mission San Fernando Rey de Espana was founded in 1797 by Franciscan Fray Fermin Francisco de Lasuen, who succeeded Father Serra as Presidente of the missions. He erected seven missions in California.

This mission was built of adobe bricks and tile by Indians who were taught the necessary skills by a handful of padres. In time it became noted for its ironwork, woven cloth, its leatherwork and carpentry. From its orchards and vineyards it produced prized wine and brandy. Its water supply was from artesian springs a few miles distant whose flow was controlled by a dam, and through an irrigation system it was led to the mission and nearby fields.

Mission San Fernando prospered until the 1830s when the missions were secularized, or removed from control of the padres. The Indians were released, and since they were not fully prepared to exist among land-hungry whites, most of them experienced rapid demoralization and disintegration.

During the following six decades the contents of the buildings disappeared and the structures were reduced to a dilapidated condition. In 1896 the California Landmarks Club, under the leadership of Charles F. Lummis, began the process of stabilizing the ruins, as it had done for the Mission San Juan Capistrano. The efforts of the Landmarks Club preserved these building from utter ruin until 1916, when public support was aroused for their restoration.

Following a few haphazard attempts to restore the buildings, it was not until the 1930s that the Friends of the Mission was formed by Dr. M. R. Harrington, curator of the Southwest Museum. A dedicated man, he gave of himself without limit. In addition to the Landmarks Club, other groups gave their support in the long process of reconstruction, chief among them being the Native Daughters of the Golden West (Los Angeles Parlor), and the Women's Auxiliary of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. In 1941 a great day of rededication occurred.

Following World War II William Randolph Hearst established a Mission Restoration Fund which was administered by the Los Angeles Chancery Office. Dr. Harrington was consultant, and under his direction the shops and quarters were rebuilt and the mission regained much of its former beauty.

Until February 1971 services were held each Sunday in the restored church. An earthquake then damaged the building, which was erected nearly one and three quarters of a century ago. Plans are under way for restoration of the building and the custom of holding numerous affairs of interest, chief of which has been the Valley Folklorico, a two-day fiesta sponsored by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

Copies of *San Fernando Mission* may be obtained at the San Fernando Historical Society, 10940 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills; San Fernando Mission; and Dawson's Book Shop.

— Dudley Gordon.