WESTERNERS
LOS ANGELES CORRAL
The Branding Iron
J. GOODMAN

MARCH 1977 LOS ANGELES CORRAL NUMBER 125

Aftermath of the San Francisco earthquake and fire.—*Donald Duke Collection*

EARTHQUAKES!

By ABRAHAM HOFFMAN

Earthquakes have always been a fact of life to Californians. Unlike the capricious tornados of the Midwest which may utterly destroy one house while leaving a neighboring home unscathed, earthquakes deliver a collective punishment. Their history is as long as Califonia's written record, and their future probabilities are a matter of constant speculation.

No record, of course, exists of earthquake occurences prior to 1769 other than geologic evidence. But it did not take long for the earthquake phenomenon to make itself known to the first explorer-colonizers who journeyed to California overland. While Gaspar de Portola's 1769 expedition was encamped by the Santa Ana River, four violent shocks occurred in a three-hour period. Numerous aftershocks followed. Thus did California announce the price to be paid for coming to live there.

In the decades to come the price of admission was exacted on a periodic basis, at a cost sometimes tragic. On December 8, 1812, while Mass was being conducted at the new stone church at

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The Branding Iron

THE WESTERNERS
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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 MONTHLY ROUNDUP

DECEMBER

The final program of the year was electrifying to railroad buffs as Brian Thompson told the western railroad story. Billed as "Four Feet Eight and One-Half Inches" (the distance between standard gauge rails), the speaker told the story of General William Palmer's narrow-gauge Denver & Rio Grande and the problems it had in its fight for rights to Raton Pass and the Royal Gorge as an exit from Colorado to the West and Mexico. The speaker went on to tell the relationship of the Union Pacific-Central Pacific (Transcontinental Railroad) effort on the American West, and the coming of subsidiary lines, with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway becoming a second transcontinental carrier.

The installation of the new officers for 1977 was held. Artist Don Perceval presented outgoing Sheriff Everett Hager with a choice watercolor, and then delivered his yearly "Sons of Bitches" talk.

Railroad buff Brian Thompson with our new Sheriff Hugh Tolford at the December Coral meeting.
—Iron Eyes Cody Photograph

Our new 1977 Sheriff Hugh Tolford shaking hands with outgoing Sheriff Everett Hager.
—Iron Eyes Cody Photograph

JANUARY

David V. Villaseñor presented a colorful meeting entitled, "Sand Painting: Its Historical Heritage of Spiritual Symbolism; The Adaptation of its Traditional Ceremonial Rituals to Modern Life." In short, you might call this tapestries in sand. By means of colored slide, Villaseñor traced the history of sand painting back as far as King Arthur's Court. His scenes and decriptions of tribal use of sand painting in the Southwest was spectacular. The speaker, while an artist, sculptor, and lecturer, is also a teacher of sand painting art to children. He is to be commended for his fine program and work with youth in continuing this heritage.

Photograph of our January speaker, David Villasenor, with Deputy Sheriff Col. Holland on the left, and past Sheriff Doc. Miller on the right.
—Iron Eyes Cody Photograph

FEBRUARY

Associate Member John Swingle presented the western gunfighter to the Corral by means of his topic "The Legend of Wyatt Earp." He explained that Stewart Lake's book *Wyatt Earp – Frontier Marshal,* first published in 1931, had created the legend of Earp and made him what we call an American folk hero. The speaker obviously had done a great deal of research on "Earpology" and author Lake. Swingle believes that Lake tells of many things that never really happened involving Earp, and that what he could not find out he made up. In any case, Lake's book quickly became a classic, and Lake is the one who carried the coins of the realm to the bank. While fact or fiction, the Earp movies and TV series made for interesting listening and watching.

Scene at the December meeting with (from the left) John Kemble, George Fullerton, and Earl Adams.
—Iron Eyes Cody Photograph

Corral Chips

Sheriff *Hugh Tolford* has been appointed Production Chairman for the Death Valley Encampment for the 14th consecutive year, and is also the author of the 49ers annual keepsake for 1976, a booklet about Christian Brevoort Zabriskie, pioneer borax miner, executive, and Death Valley figure. *Tony Kroll* designed the publication and C.M. *Grant Dahlstrom* printed it.

Associate Member *Abraham Hoffman's* article, "Mountain Resorts and Trail Camps in

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EARTHQUAKES!

Mission San Juan Capistrano, two massive shocks hit close together. The church domes fell into the nave, killing 39 and injuring many others. This quake is estimated to have been between 7 and 8 on the Richter scale and coincides in time with the New Madrid earthquakes on the Mississippi River.

During the Gold Rush years Los Angeles, then a scruffy cow town, experienced several sharp quakes that were duly noted by old-time settlers and recent arrivals alike. On July 11, 1855, an earthquake estimated at 6 on the Richter scale was felt in the region between the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers, with many aftershocks. This quake paled in comparison with the one that struck 18 months later in the Tehachapi Mountains. On January 9, 1857, Fort Tejon was nearly leveled by an estimated magnitude 8 earthquake plus aftershocks, including one said to have lasted three minutes. This earthquake was easily felt in Los Angeles, some 100 miles away.

Harris Newmark, then a recently arrived immigrant to Los Angeles, recalled the 1857 quake in his famous *Sixty Years in Southern California:* "At half-past eight o'clock on the morning of January 9th, a tremor shook the earth from North to South," he said, "the first shocks being light, the quake grew in power until houses were deserted, men, women, and children sought refuge in the streets, and horses and cattle broke loose in wild alarm." Newmark estimated the duration of the major tremor at from two to two-and-a-half minutes, noting that much damage occurred during this time.

The extent of destruction was much worse, however, at Fort Tejon, near the quake's epicenter. Newmark reported that "great rents were opened in the earth and then closed again, piling up a heap or dune of finely powdered stone and dirt. Large trees were uprooted and hurled down the hillsides; and tumbling after them went the cattle." The adobe buildings at the fort sustained major damage, "and until the cracked adobes could be repaired, officers and soldiers lived in tents."

Another major 19th century earthquake occurred on March 26, 1872, in the Owens Valley. Also estimated at magnitude 8, this one was felt over 200 miles away in Los Angeles. Tremendous devastation occurred, but few people were living there. This earthquake may have inspired Bret Harte to write his science fiction-like farce, "the Ruins of San Francisco," published in a volume of short sketches in 1872.

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Harte wrote in the style of a future historian reporting on archaeological investigations in San Francisco Bay. "Toward the close of the nineteenth century the city of San Francisco was totally engulfed by an earthquake." Note that this remarkable statement fell just a few years short of the actual disaster. In Harte's version of the catastrophe, San Francisco sank beneath the waves of the Pacific Ocean — a punishment by water rather than fire — and San Francisco's buildings were preserved in mud in a fashion similar to the preservation of Pompeii. "For many years California had been subject to slight earthquakes, more or less generally felt, but not of sufficient importance to awaken anxiety or fear," reported Harte. "Perhaps the absorbing nature of the San Franciscans' pursuits of gold-getting . . . rendered the inhabitants reckless of all other matters."

Harte's satirical prediction became tragic reality on April 18, 1906, when San Francisco crumbled under the force of a major earthquake. Seventy years have passed since this most destructive catastrophe struck the city, and the destruction has been memorialized in both popular and scholarly books and articles and a perennially popular motion picture. It is the image created by the motion picture that comes to mind (not, however, to the mind of the San Franciscans who experienced the real thing) when one mentions the San Francisco earthquake: bottomless fissures and chasms up to twenty feet wide; prolonged shaking from three minutes to half an hour; buildings continuously falling on people, who must constantly dodge crumbling walls; thieves shot for looting, their bodies posted with a warning against others not to try any criminal acts.

The reality of the San Francisco earthquake is less sensational but possibly more heroic. When the initial quake began, scientists and newsmen checked the nearest timepiece and measured its duration. The general consensus was that it was 47 seconds long. Additional aftershocks occurred, but none was so long or so severe as the first one. As for the chasms, cracks appeared in the ground, but none was so large as to swallow up people. Since the earthquake occurred at 5:14 a.m., few people were out on the streets where a building could fall on them. Looting and thievery were at a minimum, thanks to the spirit of the citizens who rose to the crisis and the watchful eyes of national guardsmen, soldiers, and police.

Although San Franciscans insist that most of the deaths and destruction resulted from the subsequent fire rather than the original quake, there

can be no doubt that the earthquake was a major calamity. Seismologists estimated it at a magnitude of 8.3. Not only San Francisco was affected. 400 miles of coastline from Fort Bragg to San Luis Obispo, felt the tremors. San Francisco counted over 450 people officially dead and estimated up to 600 more caught in the firestorm, but other communities were severely hit as well. Up to 100 people were killed in Santa Rosa; nineteen died in San Jose; and heavy damage was sustained in such communities as Palo Alto, Salinas, Hollister, Gilroy, and Burlingame.

Nevertheless, fire proved to be the earthquake's most vicious ally in San Francisco. The earthquake damaged water mains and broke pipes. Had it hit a little later, when people were up and making breakfast, the fires could have been much worse. Because the fires were concentrated rather than widespread, people could escape from the city without difficulty. In any event, smoke and fire were obvious within fifteen minutes after the first shock and the city's fire department was powerless against the threat. One contemporary observer noted, "San Francisco's efficient force of fire fighters, in spite of the fatal injury to their beloved chief, who was crushed in his room, rushed to their duty, prepared to put up a hard fight against their old enemy." The fire fighters manned engines and hose carts. "It was then discovered that the water supply had failed, and except in a few districts where there were reservoirs, there was nothing to do but to watch

Efforts to contain the fire by dynamiting buildings proved futile. Most of the business and manufacturing district was destroyed, and the fire spread to fancy residential areas, consuming the mansions of many of the city's most notable citizens. Finally the fire burned itself out and the city began almost immediately to rebuild itself.

Mayor Eugene Schmitz, who would shortly become implicated in the prosecution of Boss Abraham Ruef, met the challenge of recovery by organizing a Committee of 50, with many subcommittees, to supervise relief work. The subcommittees included Relief of the Hungry, Housing the Homeless, Relief of the Chinese, Restoration of Water, Resumption of Retail Trade, and many others. The secretary of one relief committee observed, "The use of toilets in dwellings was prohibited. Garbage was collected by wagons, placed on scows and towed out into the ocean, where it was deposited. Orders were issued to boil all water for drinking purposes."

Under the Committee of 50, bakeries produced bread, stores provided clothing and tent cities were erected. Nearby cities sent medicine and food. People without funds who wanted to leave were given free transportation from the Bay area out of the state by the Southern Pacific. Thousands of people took advantage of the SP's offer, thus reducing the relief burden for those who remained.

Ironically, San Francisco in its rebuilding became a healthier city than it was before the earthquake. Its citizens accepted the positive note proclaimed by business and civic leaders who declared that the city's wounds were far from fatal. Some even considered it a blessing of sorts. "With head erect and steady purpose in her eyes San Francisco undaunted looks out upon the future," said the secretary of the Committee on Reconstruction. Another loyal San Franciscan exclaimed, "San Francisco's disaster is San Francisco's opportunity." Within a year magazines such as Charles Lummis's *Out West* and *Sunset* were running illustrated articles on the progress of the city's reconstruction.

James D. Phelan, a former mayor of San Francisco and now United States Senator, even found the words to describe the tragedy in an understated and remarkably optimistic manner: "The burning of San Francisco, caused indirectly by earthquake shock, was merely a tragedy which will subsequently serve to make the history of California interesting." He also said he expected to see the San Francisco of the future a far greater and more beautiful city than the San Francisco of the last fifty years . . . Purified in the furnace of affliction, San Francisco will be better for her fiery ordeal, through which she has come undismayed and unconquerable."

Although San Franciscans such as Phelan seemed to consider the earthquake and fire as merely a drastic form of urban renewal, other Californians have greeted more recent quakes with heated arguments over the quality of building construction, as if better buildings could prevent earthquake damage. After the Long Beach earthquake of March 10, 1933, in which 120 people were killed, observers noted that the most severely damaged buildings were those that failed to meet minimum construction standards. Despite periodic shakeups, Californians seem to believe that if and when a major earthquake hits, modern buildings will successfully resist the shocks.

In the meantime, evidence and expectations dictate that the state is scheduled for an earthquake that may dwarf those that devastated San Francisco and Long Beach, a quake for which the San Fernando shock of 1971 is just a prelude.

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Discussions about this predicted quake bears much in common with weather analysis. No provision for rescue operations or recovery have been announced to the general public. Indeed, public expectation resembles nothing so much as a roller coaster headed for an inevitable derailment: the trip is a heady one, but the car has yet to jump the track. In 1968 Curt Gentry, writing in his *Last Days of the Late, Great State of California* as if it were 1971, predicted that California had disappeared in a major cataclysm in 1969. The San Fernando quake of February 9, 1971, occurred immediately after the appearance of the article in the Los Angeles *Times* on how a "future great earthquake in Los Angeles" would "test the quality of construction of new skyscrapers, not the engineering principles on which they are being built." The quality of Los Angeles skyscrapers certainly failed the test as far as the motion picture *Earthquake* was concerned; inspired by the San Fernando earthquake, this film utterly destroyed the city.

Two scientists have even predicted an exact date for the demise of Los Angeles. John Gribbin and Stephen Plagemann, co-authors of the book *The Jupiter Effect,* note that Jupiter, seven other planets, and the moon will line up virtually in a straight line from the sun in 1982. The lineup, according to Gribbin and Plagemann, will exert tremendous tidal pressures and place great strain on earthquake fault lines. They claim that sometime between October 11 and 31, 1982, an earthquake will destroy Los Angeles. Their prediction, it may be comforting to note, has been disputed by other scientists.

Meanwhile, there is still the problem of the mysterious Palmdale Bulge. Seismologist Charles R. Real and geophysicist John H. Bennett, writing in the August 1976 issue of *California Geology,* carefully weighed the available evidence concerning this strange uplifting of land. Unlike Gribbin and Plagemann, Real and Bennett exercised extreme caution in their observations, noting the need for additional geological and geophysical investigations. However, they also note, "Scientists speculate that the uplift may have been responsible for the 1971 San Fernando earthquake and perhaps even the 1973 Point Mugu earthquake. If this is true, a continuation of strain accumulation may result in the generation of more earthquakes like the San Fernando earthquake." At 6.5 on the Richter scale, the San Fernando earthquake may well be a preview of bigger things to come. Charlton Heston, where are you now that we need you?

By IRON EYES CODY

During the bicentennial celebrations last year, I was in great demand as division marshal and grand marshal, even as far away as Sun Valley, Idaho. In the Santa Claus parade I was riding Mr. Edminston's $25,000 Appaloosa, for the "Keep America Beautiful" organization. This is the commercial where I am known as the Indian with the tears, which is going on its 8th year. In the 1977 Rose Parade, I rode Monte Montana's beautiful horse and was Marshal of the Pinto group. I was supposed to ride the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West's float, titled "Meanwhile Back at the Ranch," (title of a movie I was in with all the old time western stars), but due to a mix-up in communications I had already committed myself to the Pinto group. I substituted my long time friend Stewart Headley, an Arapaho, decked him out in one of my costumes and he rode with the Sons of the Pioneers, Don Red Berry, Eddie Dean, and Ben Johnson, the Academy Award winner. Stewart is the first president of the Little Big Horn Association, a club of which I am one of the founders. Mrs. Headley and Mrs. Cody, during a pre-parade visit, helped with the float by pulling the heads of thousands of chrysanthemums, which were used to decorate the bottom of the float. They were rewarded by the gift of several red roses.

CORRAL CHIPS . . .

Southern California's Great Hiking Era, 1884-1938," appears in the Fall 1976 issue of the *Southern California Quarterly.*

The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History has published C.M. *Clifton Smith's A Flora of the Santa Barbara Region.* In addition to

providing a comprehensive catalogue of all known plants, the volume has worthwhile introductory material on the climate, geology, physiographical features, and botanical history and exploration of the locale that will be of interest to the layman.

C.M. *Al Shumate* serves as chairman of the program dedicating San Francisco's Old Mint as a California Registered Historical Landmark.

The American Indian and Cowboy Artists Society confers a life membership on *Lloyd Mitchell* "in appreciation for his many years devoted to the American West, his faithful depiction of its codes and legends, and his unselfish willingness to help his fellow Western artists and friends."

Competing with local pulchritude and floral embellishments, *Iron Eyes Cody* rides a prominent float in the Tournament of Roses parade.

An even dozen Westerners are active as officers and directors of the Historical Society of Southern California. They are: President, Associate Member *Bill Escherich;* First Vice-President, C.M. *Stewart Rogers;* Directors, *Dudley Gordon, John Kemble, Wade Kittell, Tony Kroll, Tom McNeil, Ed Parker* and *Walt Wheelock,* and Corresponding Members *Katie Ainsworth, John Weaver,* and *Charlie Wise.*

C.M. *Palmer Long* is installed as President of the Death Valley 49ers for 1977.

At ceremonies in San Francisco, Associate Member *Todd Berens* receives the Certificate of Meritorious Teaching Achievement from the National Council for Geographic Education.

Clifford M. Drury has generously donated books, articles, and other materials to Azusa Pacific College and now designated The Clifford M. Drury Collection of the Protestant Missionary in the Far West.

The William Andrews Clark Memorial Library stages a retrospective exhibition of the work of C.M. *Grant Dahlstrom* in recognition of his distinguished career as both designer and printer.

C.M. *Arda Haenszel* has written three informative booklets on San Bernardino that belong on the shelf of every collection of Californiana: "The Historic San Bernardino Mission District," "Historical Cajon Pass," and "A Tour of Historic San Bernardino." The trio is available from the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, 92373, for a moderate cost: twenty-five cents for the first two items, one dollar for the heftier latter publication.

The winter 1976-1977 issue of *Montana*, Magazine of the Northern Rockies, features an article by C.M. *Ralph Miracle* on "Montana Cowboys, Past and Present."

The Author's Breakfast at the Death Valley Annual Encampment features a talk by *Paul Bailey* alluringly and alliteratively titled "An Unnatural History of Death Valley, Describing some of the Valley's Varmints, Virgins, Vandals, and Visionaries." The Encampment was dedicated this year to C.M. *L. Burr Belden* in recognition of his long services to the purposes of the oranization.

Doyce Nunis is on sabbatical leave from his U.S.C. teaching post during the spring of 1977. In January, at the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Santa Barbara Mission Archive Library, he is reelected to his fifth term as president. The same month he appears before the Los Angeles Newman Club for a talk on "The Early History of the Picpus Fathers in Southern California."

A new Corral of the Westerners has been formed in La Paz, Baja California Sur, and is called the Calafia Corral after the legendary Amazon queen who was once supposed to rule over the land of California. Among the first corresponding members, perhaps motivated by the spirit of *cherchez la femme,* are *Bill Hendricks* and Associate Member *John Swingle.* Anyone else who might wish to join may do so by sending $5 to its Alta California representative, Dr. W. Michael Mathes, P.O. Box 1227, Sonoma, California, 95476.

C.M. *Dabney Otis Collins* has had a raft of articles published of late, including "Christmas in Old Colorado" (*Colorado Magazine*); "Mountain Man" (*Colorado Outdoors*); and "Guide Books That Helped To Win the West" (*Denver Post Empire*).

The Winter Conference of the Associated Historical Societies is held at Rio Hondo College with the following Westerners in evidence: *Dutch Holland, Ray Wood, Wade Kittell, Dwight Cushman;* Associate Members *Bob Scherer* and *Bill Burkhart,* who was program chairman; and Corresponding Member *Marie Harrington.*

The Southern Symposium of the Conference of California Historical Societies, held at the Pierpont Inn in Ventura, finds a hefty entourage of Westerners on hand for the festivities: *Everett Hager, Dutch Holland, Walt Wheelock, Sid Platford, Dwight Cushman*; Associate Member *Bill Burkhart*; and Corresponding Members *Marie Harrington, Victor Plukas, Frank Newton, Ernest Marquez, Max Johnson,* and *R. Coke Wood*, Executive Secretary of the Conference.

Raymund F. Wood is invited to participate in a

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symposium on library history in Philadelphia on the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the American Library Association in that city. The title of his talk is "The Development of the Public Library in California: 1850-1920," which will appear in printed form in *The Journal of Library History*.

Under the registered name of Autograph Archives Collection, C.M. *Richard Curtiss* has amassed more than 800 autographs of prominent individuals in such fields as politics, literature, the visual arts, religion, and entertainment.

C.M. *Dick Yale* serves on a committee down San Diego way to restore the name of Hubert Howe Bancroft to the list of honorary life members of the Society of California Pioneers, a place Bancroft lost in the 1890's when descendants of early settlers felt that his monumental history of California reflected negatively on the honor and integrity of some pioneers.

The December issue of *American Artist* features an article on *Burt Procter's* outstanding career as a creative painter.

The Zamorano Club is treated to Dr. *Ed Harnagel's* talk on "Benjamin Rush, American Scholar and Patriot."

Corresponding Members Welcomed by Corral

The Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners extends the paw of friendship to the following new Corresponding Members. They are: James D. Bugher, Cerritos; Robert Cates, Chatsworth; Dan Cronkhite, Morongo Valley; Barry O. Gordon, Los Angeles; Larry Hutton, Huntington Beach; and David Villasenor of Glendora.

Corral Welcomes New Associate Members

The Corral welcomes the following men to Associate Membership. They are: William Burkhard, William Escherich, Abraham Hoffman, Jack McCaskill, Frank Newton, and W. E. H. Rasmussen.

Seven New Active Members Initiated

The following Associate Members have been elevated to Active status in the Los Angeles Corral and active participation in the Corral's activities. They are: John Caughey, George Geiger, Edward Harnagel, Phil Kovinick, Ray Nicholson, William Warren, and Raymund Wood.

BRAND BOOK ARTICLES WANTED

Raymund F. Wood, one of our new Active members in the Los Angeles Corral, was appointed by the Trail Bosses as Editor of Brand Book No. 16. Dr. Wood is currently Professor of Library Sciences at the University of California — Los Angeles (UCLA), but he will be retiring at the end of this academic year. He asks all members of the Corral, Active, Associate and especially Corresponding members, to send him material, articles, essays, plus ideas that can be worked up that relate to the West. So be prepared for a telephone call or letter from Ray Wood. If you wish to reach him, his home address is 18052 Rosita Street, Encino, California 91316.

Derumaux, Sheriff Chen and Sheriff Tolford.

Sheriff Visits Paris Corral .....

While on vacation in Paris, France, last year, Sheriff Hugh Tolford and his wife paid their respects to Gabriel Chen, Sheriff of the Paris Corral.

The Tolfords were invited to the residence of Sheriff Chen on Place Pigalle and were fortunate to meet Maurice Derumaux, a noted member of the Corral. Following a wonderful French dinner complete with wine and cheese, the gentlemen adjourned to the parlor to get acquainted. A cheery fire in the fireplace added warmth to the occasion.

Gabriel Chen, while Sheriff of the Paris Corral, is also head of a musical group called *Les Westerners*. Their recordings about America and the West are very popular in France. Maurice Derumaux is a noted collector of American Indian items in France. He has been collecting for the past 40 years. Portions of his collection are often exhibited in museums throughout Europe.

Sheriff Chen sends his greetings to all members of the Los angeles Corral.

IN REMEMBRANCE

HOMER H. BOELTER
1899-1977

Homer rode into the Los Angeles Corral as it was being organized in December 1946. It soon became apparent to the formative group that Homer was a man of many, many talents. As a lithographer, an artist, and creator of fine printing, he was destined to bring honor, prestige and glory to the Los Angeles Corral. A shelf of beautiful Brand Books stands as a monument to his artistic achievements.

One might call Homer a perfectionist—always striving for excellence in all he did. This drive resulted in many awards and certificates of excellence for design and printing from the American Institute of Graphic Arts. He gathered a cadre of highly skilled craftsmen at Homer H. Boelter Lithography and his high standards were evidenced in all the work of that firm.

Homer was an artist of rare talents, as well. The most significant expression left to us of this gift is his masterwork, *Portfolio of Hopi Kachinas,* published in 1969. Dr. Carl Dentzel, director of the Southwest Museum wrote in his introduction to this publication, "Homer Boelter has distinguished himself over a period of many years in printing the Brand Book (of the Westerners, Los Angeles Corral) which has received international recognition for the Corral. His many special publications on many varied subjects, usually relating to historical and anthropological interests, have become collectors' items, sought for their inherent value as well as their imaginative design and beauty. Mr. Boelter is an artist, author, craftsman of great knowledge, taste and skill. His work of almost half a century reflects this fundamental fact. On numerous occasions I have had the pleasure of attending Indian ceremonials in California, Arizona and New Mexico with him. I appreciate the warm friendship he has maintained with Indian people as well as the keen insight he has into their ways of life. I know his particular preference for the Hopi Indians and his love of the lands which comprise the high mesa country of northern Arizona. Several times we have witnessed together the Snake Dance and other ceremonials so dear to the hearts of the Hopi people and to Homer H. Boelter."

An avid collector, his home and office were filled with art and books dealing with the West. High on his list were Indian artifacts and items of Indian culture. Kachina dolls, duelling pistols and guns, branding irons, pottery items, and much, much more. He often said that if an item smacked of people or incidents in American history—especially of our West—it would find a home in his burrow.

Homer found pleasure and relaxation in the pursuit of his Americana hobby. Often in the pages of his occasional publication, *The Scarab,* he wrote of the "Miracle of America." He repeatedly referred to the fundamental belief in the freedom and thought and action of the individual, and the democratic free enterprise system. His love of country was evident in so much of his writings, directed toward rededication to the preservation of our heritage. Among his often-repeated Boelterisms: "A man's religion can never be destroyed with bullets." "The goodness of mankind everywhere brings into focus the blessings we share with our friends." "Basic truths and the importance of the individual do not change—time merely accentuates their value." "It is hard to meet a deadline for a man who likes to change things and say, 'That's fine, just what I want, let's make these few changes, but finish it today.' "

His annual Christmas greetings, reprintings of

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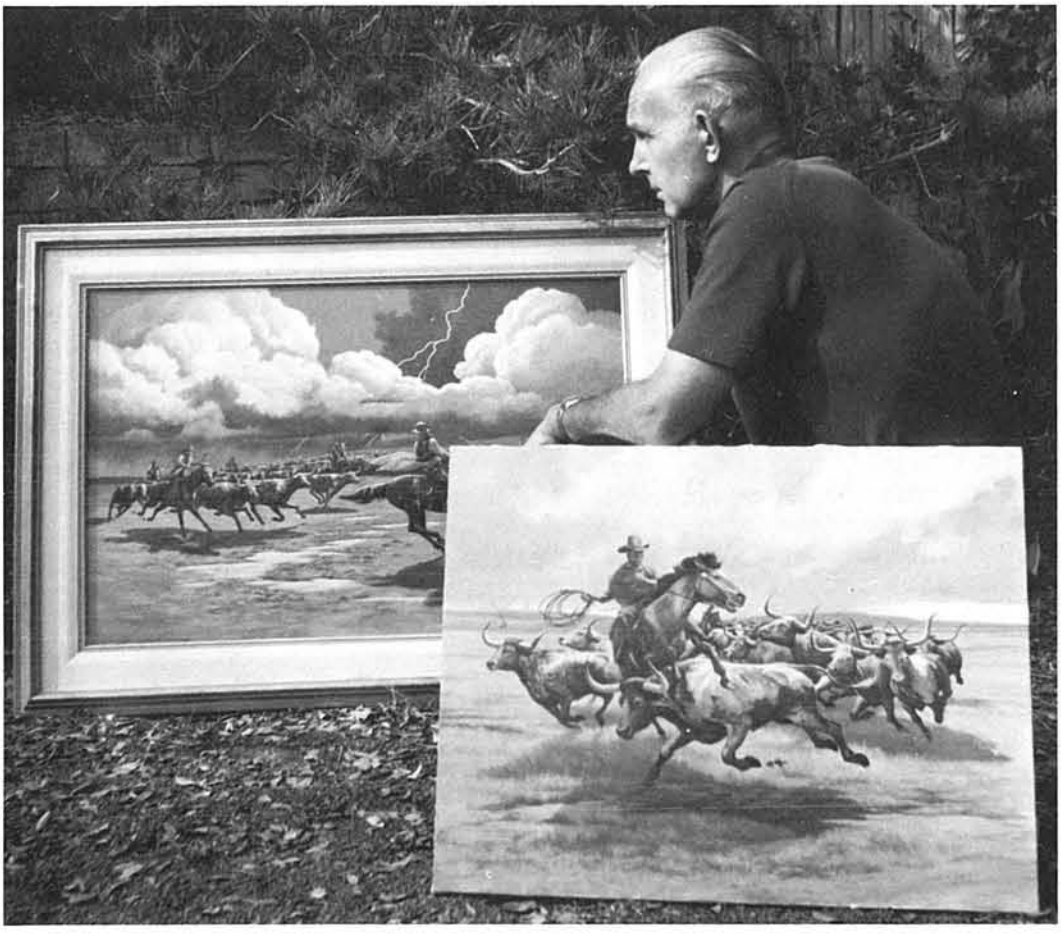
biblical or secular works of special significance, were perhaps the best expression of his talents in literature, history and art—beautiful works which are now collectors' items. They reflected not only his talent and taste, but the character, the personal warmth and faith of the man.

Homer was the third Sheriff of our Corral (1949) which several years ago, with appreciation, bestowed on him Honorary Membership as an expression of their gratitude, acknowledging his "substantial contribution to the perpetuation of the spirit and culture of the Old West, and preservation of Western Americana."

Homer accomplished much good in his lifetime, and we all bask in the reflected glory of his many accomplishments. He will be sorely missed. He is survived by his two sons Don and Herb (both of whom have shared Westerner responsibilities) and their families. We thank Homer for having given us so much of himself in behalf of the West we all love.

—Paul W. Galleher



TED LITTLEFIELD
Artist and Friend
1915-1977

Ted was born in Los Angeles in 1915, attended high school, and one year of junior college in Ontario. From there he went to the Otis Art Institute for two years, followed by another two years at the Art Center School of Los Angeles.

After working in art services and advertising agencies for a short time, he enlisted in the Army Air Force. Here he worked as a lab technician processing aerial film, and later as a photo-gunner on a B-24 and B-29. Following wars' end, Ted began to do art for Capitol Records, Exclusive Records, the Edward J. Robinson Advertising Agency, and other freelance work.

By 1953 Ted was doing graphic titles for NBC and other studios which supplied film effects to the motion picture industry. In fact he made his living doing motion picture art in Hollywood for almost 15 years after which time he felt that the creative environment in which he was working had disappeared. He engaged in painting scenic background for cartoon for a time, then ventured into set painting and backgrounds for TV shows. Ted was still engaged in this endeavor part time at his death.

As a leisure time activity, he began to paint the Western scene. He put on canvas the early years on the frontier as he saw it. He once claimed that a good Western artist should spend his time living and painting in the West. He believed he had won his place as a painter of the Western scene. In his quest for accuracy, Ted went beyond a painting sketch and used a camera to bring out the important details of a scene.

His art was shown at Saddleback Inn in Santa Ana, the Shadow Hills Gallery in Sunland, and the Arcade Art Gallery in Santa Barbara. He often brought art for displays at Westerner meetings.

Ted's generosity was well known and we are all aware of his kind contributions to the Annual Rendezvous each year.

All the friends of Ted Littlefield are grateful that he shared his view of the American West with them.

—Tony Kroll and Andy Dagosta

A LESSON IN INDIAN ETIQUETTE

By MICHAEL HARRISON

In the early '20s, the late Chief Tewaquaptewa of Old Oraibi would come to the Grand Canyon to visit his nephew, Monroe Fredericks, who worked for the Sante Fe Railway. The Chief had quite a reputation as a composer and singer of Hopi songs and some of his songs are found in Natalie Curtis' *The Indians' Book*. Jason Quahongwa, also a Hopi, had made an Indian drum for me and on occasion, some of the Hopi employed at the Grand Canyon would come to my home in the evening for a session of Hopi songs — at the proper time of the year, of course — followed by coffee and cookies, the large vanilla kind with pink and white icing.

I had never heard the Chief sing, although I had met him first years before at Old Oraibi and

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again on his visits to the Grand Canyon. When Monroe Fredericks told me his uncle was coming on another visit, I asked if he would bring the Chief to my house for an evening of song and refreshments. This came to pass and I had arranged for an ample supply of both cookies, coffee, canned milk — and sugar.

It was probably about 7:30 in the evening when the two men came. The Chief made himself right at home and immediately the drum was prepared he started to sing. After a half hour or so, he took time out to roll a cigarette (I also had an ample supply of what the Navajos called Begashee Nahto — cow tobacco — Bull Durham) and brown papers. After singing several hours with time out for smoking, we had our coffee and cookies after which the Chief started singing again. I was so interested in his songs, which Monroe would translate for me and which were beautifully sung, that I had lost all track of time. However, I started noticing that between songs, when the Chief would roll a cigarette, his eyes appeared to be heavy and every once in a while there would be a perceptible nod. I looked at my watch and it was past midnight and I came to the realization that the old gentleman was tired, but being a Bahana (white man) I didn't want to ask him to leave even though I was getting sleepy also.

After singing a few more songs, the Chief turned to Monroe and said something in Hopi. Monroe looked sheepish when I asked him what the Chief had said. Imagine my surprise and chagrin when Monroe said the Chief would like to know when he could go home. It was then that I learned for the first time that Hopi etiquette provides for the *host* to tell the *guest* when he may leave. (Emily Post — please note.)

Corresponding Member Kirk Martin's mural, *Men to Match our Mountains,* was officially accepted by Yucca Valley's Parks Department on December 22, 1976, in ceremonies held in the community center.

The 8x16-foot mural, the dominant element of which is a reproduction of the famed rock sculpture of the Presidents at Mount Rushmore, was originally part of the Freedom Hall Bicentennial exhibit.

When the exhibit closed, the canvas was removed from the multipurpose hallway where for several weeks, Martin worked on transforming the preliminary drawing into a mural in oil. The finished mural was then framed and mounted on the north wall of the Yucca Valley Community Center.

During the ceremony celebration, Albert J. Gilbert, chairman of the Morongo Basin Bicentennial Committee, compared the theme of the picture with the qualities of the painting's creator, reminding the audience of nearly 100 of the words of Genesis 6:4 "There were giants in the earth in those days . . . "

Gilbert and Joe Sabol, coordinators of the Freedom Hall program pointed to the central roll the painting played in the exhibit. The Morongo Basin won designation as an official Bicentennial Community from Washington, largely because of Freedom Hall.

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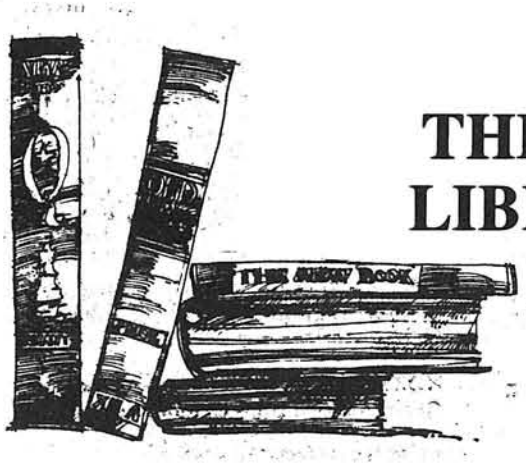

THE TRAVELING LIBRARIES OF CALIFORNIA

By RAYMUND F. WOOD

In the year 1895 James L. Gillis, a man who had spent over twenty years of his life as a Southern Pacific executive and lobbyist, abandoned his railroad career and was appointed Keeper of the Archives in the Sacramento Office of the Secretary of State.

Mr. Gillis happened one day to go into the state library for some information of a legislative nature. While he stood admiring the interior architecture of the rotunda, he waited for someone to come and give him the library service he required. No one came. It appeared that the entire state library was deserted. Gillis was very perturbed by this incident. All those thousands of books, and no one outside of the legislature and a few other privileged persons could legally borrow them. He resolved that if ever an opportunity came he would ask to be appointed State Librarian, and then he would show people how to run a library as he had previously shown them how to run a railroad.

In the spring of 1899 that opportunity came, when a vacancy occurred, and Gillis asked for and was appointed to the position of State Librarian on April 1, 1899. One of his first acts was to take the State Library out of the domain of political patronage and to put it under civil service. Another, even more important, change that he managed to get through the legislature was the insertion of the simple words ". . . other than those named" . . . into the text of the law which had hitherto restricted use of the library's books almost exclusively to the members and staff of the legislature.

By 1903 Gillis felt secure enough in his position, and he had laid enough legal groundwork, to begin to implement his dream of bringing good library service to everyone in California. His first step in this direction was to set up a practical system of Traveling Libraries, modeled on those already in operation in the state of New York. These Traveling Libraries were designed specifically to bring books into rural areas, especially those far away from large or even medium-sized cities where municipal libraries did exist, but whose branches did not extend beyond the city limits.

Traveling Libraries were already being experimented with in California before 1900. In 1898 the California Library Association had placed the topic on its agenda for discussion at its annual conference, and in 1899 at least two private agencies, the California Women's Club and the Tuesday Club of Sacramento, were sending out collections of books as part of their social service function. But these activities, meritorious as they may have been, lacked the central organization essential for long-term operation. So in 1903 Gillis and the State Library agreed to take over and inaugurate a state-wide system.

A Traveling Library as finally organized by Mr. Gillis (and by Miss Laura Steffens who, as Head of the Extension Department, was in charge of details) consisted of a collection of fifty books chosen from various fields of knowledge — philosophy, agriculture, history, biography, literature, and so on — including some light fiction and some children's books. A small pamphlet listing each book by author and title and giving a three — or four — line description of each title was also prepared. The fifty volumes were then packed into a sturdy wooden box, along with several copies of the description pamphlet, which served both as inventory and as a catalog, and they were then ready to be shipped anywhere in the state.

Any community in California, large or small, could request a Traveling Library. All that was required was for five taxpayers of the community to send a signed request to Sacramento. These five persons then acted as trustees, receiving the shipment, taking responsibility for its mainte-

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nance, and loaning out and receiving back the books. The Traveling Library stayed in a community for three months, or for six months if so requested, after which time it was returned to Sacramento, where it was at once disinfected with formaldehyde gas to prevent the possibility of the spread of any contagious disease. A bookcase with shelves for the display of the books was sent along with each initial shipment, which could be retained — either in a store, a high school, a woman's clubhouse, or even a private home — as long as the community wished to continue to receive shipments.

A fee of $3.00 was at first charged for each shipment to cover transportation costs. Gillis has ascertained that this sum was about the median figure for transportation charges throughout the state, and he did not want communities at a distance to have to pay more than those that happened to be nearby. So all paid the same fee. After a year or so of operation, however, even this small charge was dropped, as Gillis discovered that usually some civic-minded man was paying the sum out of his pocket, it being impractible to assess an entire community for so small a fee. So after a while there was no transportation fee at all, and by law no membership or subscription fee could be charged to any borrower. The five trustees were permitted, however, to assess fines for overdue books, which money could be used by the local library association, if any, or some other sponsoring agency, for defraying costs involved in making the Traveling Library available a few hours a day to the community.

The first such Traveling Library was shipped off in December 1903 to Auburn, in the old mining country. But by the 20th century there was not much mining being done around Auburn, and the ranchers in that area were more concerned about their cattle and their fruit orchards than about the price of gold. So it was with the other communities to which the Traveling Libraries went — over 510 of them by 1911, when the program was terminated for budgetary reasons. The vast majority of them were rural communities—Janesville (Lassen County), Lomo Pilon (San Luis Obispo County), Sawyer's Bar (Siskiyou County), and Glen Ellen (Sonoma County) being typical names—and many of them were located far from a railroad or even a macadamized highway. This latter situation brought up a new problem. As long as the postal service, which accepted the boxes as parcel post (book rate), could deliver the books to their destination by railroad well and good. But if the community was not on a railroad, or even near a main road, transportation of the heavy books became quite a problem. This was usually solved by shipping the books from Sacramento, not in a box, but in two leather-reinforced canvas cases, which could be strapped onto the back of a mule or burro; and there were tales of instances where the citizens of some remote communities made the trek, even in winter, to the nearest railroad depot, unloaded the precious books from their containers, and carried them on their backs through the snow to their own community.

The number of communites requesting libraries increased very rapidly, requiring Miss Steffens to compile more and more collections, until there were a total of fifty numbered Traveling Libraries. Actually there were not quite this many different collections since No. 37 was largely a repeat of the titles in No. 1, No. 38 a repeat of No. 2, and so on, although No. 39 was a completely new collection. But even so, with more than thirty-six libraries to choose from, even a community that received a box regularly every three months, or four a year, would be able to go on for nine years without once receiving a title they had had before.

We do not have detailed statistics for the first couple of years in operation, but after 1906 statistics were published quarterly in *News Notes of California Libraries,* and these provide fascinating information. From the issue of October 1909, for example, we learn that 454 communities up to that time had received a Traveling Library, there being eight new ones during the previous quarter, places with such interesting names as Ocean View (Alameda Co.); Mosquito (El Dorado Co.); Conejo (Fresno Co.); Johnstonville (Lassen Co.); Los Olivos (Santa Barbara Co.); Hester Creek (Santa Cruz Co.); and Guinda and Rumsey (Yolo Co.). Of the 454 communities, only 263 were still active in October 1909, 37 having returned their latest shipment without requesting another because in the meantime they had established their own branch library, and 154 having done the same thing, but for different reasons, usually lack of volunteer personel to take charge of the collection.

The success of the Traveling Libraries as a way of bringing culture to the agricultural areas of California may be assessed in two ways — first by actual statistics of the number of borrowers and of books circulated, and secondly by the number of communities which were later able to establish a permanent local library as a result of the enthusiasm aroused by the Traveling Library.

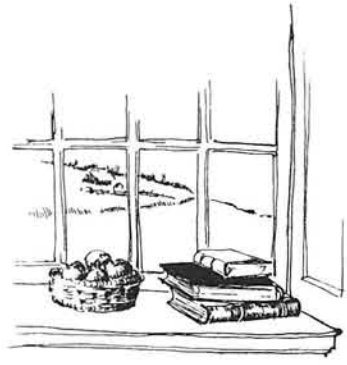
As to the first, statistics, we do not have access to a total for the first two and a half years of operation. But from May 1906 to July 1911 we do have quarterly statistics in the *News Notes of California Libraries,* which show a total of 99,168 borrowers and a circulation of 295,409 titles, an average of approximately three books per borrower. If we add to these totals some extrapolated figures for the missing years of 1904, 1905, and the first four months of 1906, we arrive at an approximate figure of 125,000 borrowers and 375,000 titles circulated, truly an impressive total for a period of less than eight years.

The second criterion for judging success is less easy to establish statistically. From the July 1911 report (the last one published before the demise of the program), we learn that 90 communities were no longer asking for Traveling Libraries because they were already, or were about to become branches of a permanent county library system. The success of this county system, first established by law in 1909, was largely due to the organizing energy and enthusiasm of one person, Harriet G. Eddy, but to some extent her work was made easier by the fact that many farmers and ranchers of California had had six or seven years of familiarity with books, and with even the limited amount of library service, that the Traveling Libraries had provided.

There have been various assessments of the value of the Traveling Libraries. Miss Steffens, who was in direct charge of the program, is rather ambivalent about the Libraries, if one may judge from her book written in 1924, well over a decade later. She writes that "the traveling libraries service would have been called a success by most library workers." But a page or so later in her book she says "The fixed sets of fifty volumes could not be a success with no librarian in charge and with no librarian near enough to help make the connection between the person and the book." A professional librarian of today would hardly find fault with the philosophy of the latter statement, but the man in the street might wonder how a continuing service that in less than eight years circulated over 375,000 books to readers who would not otherwise have had free access to them can be called a "failure," a term which Miss Steffens used in her summary paragraph. They were a failure only in one sense — that they did not do enough. They provided no reference service, no encyclopedias, no fact books, no almanacs, no dictionaries, and only a few how-to-do-it books.

In many ways, however, they were a distinct success. They provided for outlying rural communities a contact with the world of letters, with current political and social thought, and with the best of literature, both classical and modern. They provided for adults a renewed contact with the kinds of books they had read in high school — famous men and women of history, the fiction of Joseph Conrad, books of music appreciation, or a history of the Santa Fe Trail, as well as practical books with such titles as *California Fruits and How to Grow Them, Home Gardening for Profit,* or *A Book on Cattle, Sheep, and Swine.* For younger readers there were titles ranging from Stevenson's *Child's Garden of Verse* to Jean Webster's *When Patty Went to College,* as well as such universal classics as *Treasure Island, Quo Vadis?,* and Owen Wister's *The Virginian.*

If books like these, practical, well chosen, and representing the best available in current American literature, both fiction and non-fiction, were borrowed and presumably read by some 125,000 borrowers in rural areas of California, it is hard to conclude that these Traveling Libraries were anything but a success. They may not have been ideal. There were no doubt delays in delivery; an eager reader could doubtless go through the entire collection of fifty volumes, or at least all those that interested him, in far less than three months; and, as already mentioned, at no time was any kind of reference service provided. Still, as a means of bringing good books to communities that might otherwise have simply had to do without, the Traveling Libraries did fulfill a valuable service. And when their time was ended, and they gave way to something better after 1911, there were still many families in rural California who remembered with nostalgia and affection the excitement of those early days, when the news would spread rapidly around the community, "The books have come!" The latest Traveling Library has arrived!"



EARLY DENVER

By Ralph Miracle

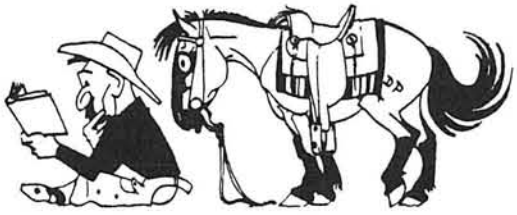
Back in 1904 the president of the Montana Society of Engineers made a talk in which he reminisced about his early experiences in the frontier West. Among these was a description of the town of Denver, Colorado, when he was in that area during the preliminary surveys of the Union Pacific Railroad Eastern Division as it was called. This was in 1865 and from the text of the talk:

"Evans was Governor of the Territory. The whole of Denver then consisted of but two streets, Laramie and Blake, and they were but two or three blocks long. There were always outfits camped around the settlement and the streets were filled with miners, plainsmen, Mexicans, and the roving roughs that infested the country. I remember passing one of the big gambling houses, either *The Dianna* or *The Progress,* and seeing a man brought out dead, that was either shot or killed with a knife. The only ones that seemed to take any interest in the incident were the men that carried the body out, and they, it seemed, merely wished to remove an encumbrance from under their feet, for I went into the house and all of the many tables were running with all variety of games, crowds of men around each, many of the toughest looking characters that imagination can picture, and no notice given to the one of their number which was being carried out from one of the tables.

"You can imagine what it was to bring a survey party of so large a number, all of the true western type of those days, into a town such as Denver. I suppose they thought they might take it for their own use for a time; the intrusion was in such a mass that the soldiers from the post that had recently been established came out to try and bring the place to at least its normal condition. The officer of the day called on me and I found he had a large number locked up and concluded with him it might be well to leave them housed until morning.

"In the morning after rounding them into camp another feature of the times commenced to be enacted. It was election day. Vehicles of all kinds and description, from broken-down hacks to prairie schooners, began to arrive with kegs etc. in front and the men were asked to take a ride. It was an exceptional occasion for a frolic, nothing more; the fellow that gave the most treats was the successful candidate, and it appeared perfectly legitimate that a vote cast each time a treat was given, no matter how many times the process had been repeated. Without doubt, the men voted for each candidate at least once, if not several times."

This was early Denver as recalled by a man who was there.



DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL ...

Yucaipa Valley California: A Saga of Ordinary People with Extra-Ordinary Dreams, Morse G. Archer, editor, privately printed in a limited and numbered edition. 428pp., illustrated, bibliography, index, map end papers, dust jacket. $15.00. (Distributed by D-J Books, Box 3352, San Bernardino, California 92413)

It is fortuitous that, upon the Nation's two hundredth anniversary, a group of Yucaipa residents banded together to produce a local history which is more than a chronicle. Indeed, it is a welcome addition to the history of Southern California.

Material has been corraled from a variety of sources, some of them hitherto untapped. The Yucaipa Valley has drawn to it over the years a diverse and independent-minded group of settlers. That these attributes still brightly burn in the spirit of the present-day valley residents may be seen in the pages of the book. The book, itself a formidable task, is a testament to determination and volunteerism.

The contributors have been allowed to have their own way in terms of style and presentation. Thus the volume is not a dry, promotional type of chronicle cranked out on an important holiday for the sake of telling people how wonderful the locality is. Nor does this volume seek to be the last word. New directions for study are pointed out while readers will be encouraged to search for those documents yet lying in musty attics or darkened cellars. The contents are filled with facts, names, places, dates, anecedotes and also interpretive insight.

The editor and authors of this volume have presented to their fellow citizens a felicitous and informative work which will take its place with the best that has been written.

—Anon.

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