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LOS ANGELES CORRAL

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Swinging in Baja

by Walt Wheelock

Pablo Martinez, whose ancestors included several of the early families of southern Baja California, was born in San Jose de Cabo on Jan. 11, 1898. His early studies were completed in his native village. Then in 1922-24, he studied in Normal School of Mexico. Later he also was to spend some five years in the Mexico-Norteamerican Institute of Cultural Relations. Not only did he spend many years teaching in Baja California Sur, but he also served as an inspector of its system of education. He passed away on Jan. 20, 1970, in Mexico City, and was interred in his beloved San Jose de Cabo.

In addition to teaching, he was an avid researcher of the history of Baja California. In 1956 he published *Historia de Baja California*. It was not a definitive work, but was the only modern history of the peninsula. In 1960 Ethel Duffy Turner translated it into English and it was then published as *A History of Lower California*, with a subtitle (the only complete and reliable one). The Spanish language version has been reprinted a number of times and is still used as a textbook in Baja California.

It is a secondary, relatively unknown volume, that was truly Papa Martinez' most important work, *Guia Familiar de Baja California, 1700-1900*. As he tells it, various prominent people are mentioned in his *Historia de Baja California*, who were active

in various periods on the peninsula. After describing their participation in past events, he decided to do more research on their family backgrounds based on early records.

So after finishing the *Historia*, he devoted himself to examining the peninsula archives, both on the peninsula and in the National Archives in Mexico City. He became profoundly alarmed as he realized that many of the parochial records, as well as those of the State, had been destroyed either through natural causes or human, often wanton, carelessness. The remaining ones were headed for destruction unless some effort could be made to preserve them, or at least to copy them into text. [In the recent earthquake in Mexico City fully 50% of the documents in the Presidential Palace were lost in the subsequent fires!] He gathered all the information that the ecclesiastical and state archives contained. In addition, he selected a number of the more notable families of Baja California as well as a few of the lesser-known ones, to interview and to transcribe their information. The main purpose of the proposed book was to preserve family data from the 18th and 19th centuries. He worked for many years and the crop was copious, a harvest that would have been more bountiful if the archives had been complete and legible. Prof. Martinez had hoped to produce a companion volume

The Branding Iron

THE WESTERNERS

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Contributions from members and friends welcomed.

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Los Angeles Corral



THE MONTHLY ROUNDUP

OCTOBER 1985 MEETING

In an attempt to attract a larger attendance by beating the invariable September heat, the Corral held its annual Rendezvous on October 12, once again enjoying the hospitality of Al Miller's home. Naturally, September was not as hot as had been feared, but the October day's fine weather justified the change. Although attendance was only slightly better than last year, what with competition from the Western History Association meeting in Sacramento, members and their guests enjoyed themselves immensely.

The Rendezvous offered a variety of activities ranging from the spirited annual auction to the raffling off of the fiberglass Indian. The Rendezvous also featured a silent auction, Indian-fried bread, the raising of the tepee, and a delicious steak dinner. Of special note were the numerous fine paintings, both up for auction and on display. Following the dinner, George Stevens presented Andy Dagosta as the honored guest of the evening, noting that Andy has contributed to three Brand Books and given much of his time and talent to the Westerners.

Those who attended agreed that those who didn't had missed a fine Rendezvous. Plan to attend next year!

(Continued on Page Nine)

covering the 20th century, but the task will have to be carried out by another, younger researcher.

This published work is monumental. It has 1020 pages, in which there appear 14,200 excerpts from the records. He opens with a discussion of the early families of Baja California, breaking this down into: First Creole Families, Families of the Second Half of the XVIII Centuries, Other Families of the Beginning of the XIX Century, and the Contribution of Families whose Composition included Non-Spanish Blood.

This is followed by a transcription of all the church records that Martinez could locate. These included Births, Marriages and Deaths. These small capsules would often include the subject's name, those of the parents, his place of residence, and his occupation, in addition to the time and place where the entry was made. In many cases the name of the padre who made the entry was also listed. The work concludes with the Civil Registry (census) from its beginning in 1861 to 1900. The only records of this type that were available were those from Ensenada and Santa Rosalia.

Brief resumes of some of the entries concerning the origin of various families which will occur in the following text are given below:

- Rodrigues, originated by Esteben Rodriguez Lorenzo, the second governor of Baja California.
- Arce, originated by Juan de Arce, a soldier who arrived in Loreto with the second little group of troops in February 1698.
- Romero, originated by the soldier, Felipe Romero, who on retiring was granted the house and grounds of Mission San Luis Gonzaga in 1768.
- Castro, originated by Francisco Maria Jose de Castro, a soldier from Sinaloa, who married Zeferina Limon, a Spanish woman.
- Talamantes. Founder: Juan Bautista Talamantes, a military man. He married Catarina Flores in 1815, when he had already retired as a sergeant.
- Mesa. Founder: Miguel Mesa, married Luz Arce. In 1826 was mayor of Loreto, and briefly served as peninsular governor.
- Alvarez. Founder: Honorato Alvarez and

Maria del Pilar Miranda, great-great-grandparents of Pablo Martinez.

• Gonzalez, while not a "founder," Gabriel Gonzalez' name often appears in these records as officiating clergyman. In 1840, both Alta and Baja California were given new ecclesiastical status by the Holy See. A Franciscan friar, Francisco Garcia Diego was appointed as bishop of Both Californias, but was unable to serve in Peninsular California, so he deputized the recently appointed Dominican Presidente, Father Gabriel Gonzalez as his vicar forane for this region.

Msgr. Weber wrote: "Though considerable unfavorable aspirations have been cast on Father Gonzalez' personal life, historians generally agree that the friar was an effective and worthy administrator. His activities were not reserved to purely spiritual matters. One authority claims that 'the Presidente had Prominent part, perhaps a key position, in the Mexican resistance to the American invasion of 1846-48.' Certainly Gonzalez can be given considerable credit for the eventual decision to allow the peninsula to remain identified with the Republic of Mexico."

Bancroft in his *California Pastoral* was much more outspoken, writing: "Twelve children crowned the joys of father Gabriel, missionary of the two Californias, in the year of our Lord 1819/*sic*— so it is said, and a wise father, he." In a brief discussion I had with Msgr. Weber, he merely smiled and remarked, "Bancroft was sometimes inclined to exaggerate!"

In addition to the Births, Marriages and Deaths, there are included two brief listings of Dispensas para Matrimonios. These were required when church law prevented those burdened with certain irregularities from being wed within the church. The bases for these dispensations are thus classified:

parentesco: consanguinity

vaguedad: "vagabond," not having a fixed place of residence

ultramarino: "across the sea," included foreigners and at times, residents of the mainland

extrano obispado: belong to another diocese

copula illicita: this hardly needs an explanation!

There are listed 82 such from La Paz and eight from Loreto. We have selected examples, illustrating each category of dispensation. While we may have chosen some extreme cases, the most common causes were foreign birth and/or consanguinity.

Father Mariano Carlon, from La Paz, with the date of Oct. 14, 1855, asked for dispensation for the wedding of Francisco Gerardo (Gerard) and Maria Alvarez. The dispensation was granted because he was a foreigner (French).

On Oct. 21, 1855, a dispensation was granted to Antonio Maldonado to contract marriage with Estefana Zumaya of the parish of San Jose de Cabo, as he was from the diocese of another bishop.

Dec. 1, 1855, Ambrosio Durazo sought a dispensation for his marriage with Esiquia Jacoba Belin, in La Paz, as he was a "wanderer" from another diocese.

Another rather common difficulty arose when the engaged couple was too closely related. With the sparse population of Baja California, it was rather easy to become involved with a "kissin cousin."

For the impediment of an illicit affinity (relationship) Jose Ma. Dominguez of Todos Santos sought a dispensation to marry Antonia Ojeda. He was the legitimate son of Antonio Dominguez and Gertrudis Acuna. The request was dated May 15, 1853.



THE CHURCH AND TOWN OF SAN ANTONIO, LOWER CALIFORNIA
From *Harper's Magazine*, November 1868.

On May 1, 1855, in San Antonio, a license was granted to Demetrio Martinez to marry Petronila Castro. Impediment: second degree of illicit affinity.

Now we shall consider the cases of those who were not just unfortunate enough to be barred by relationships or who had come from across the sea, but who had truly sinned.

For illicit copulation with her, X... Martinez sought a dispensation to wed with X... Lara from San Antonio, under the date of Jan. 8, 1849. (The lack of given names could indicate that the couple probably were Indians.)

From San Antonio, of Aug. 18, 1845, a request for dispensation because of consanguinity and illicit copulation with her, was made by X... Talamantes, to marry X... Contreras, the daughter of Jose Ma. Contreras and Rosa Flores. It was granted with a fine of 25 pesos.

In La Paz, Father Mariano Carlon issued a certificate for the marriage of Miguel Amao, of that parish with Lagarda Cota of San Antonio. It was required to legitimize the offspring already born. Date: Mar. 15, 1857.

It was not only Indians and vagabonds who sought permission to wed. In the following entry, the families involved were two of the most prominent in Mulege.

Angel Villavicencio, of Mulege, implored a dispensation to wed Ana Arce, native of Guaymas. He, the legitimate son of Jose Rosas Villavicencio and Francisca Vedusco; she of 15 years, the legitimate daughter of Juan Arce and Juana Villa. The impediment included close relationships, and the copulation with her aunt. It was granted on May 16, 1854.

But the "swinging" could be even more involved.

On Jan. 30, 1855, Father Guadalupe, travelling from Comondu, asked for a dispensation for Feliz Baeza and Ursula to join in matrimony. The problem was that the bridegroom had committed acts of illicit copulation with two cousins and an aunt of the bride.

On July 14, 1867, Cayetano Romero began an action in Comondu to obtain a dispensation to marry Benedicta Gastelum. Their



ON THE TRAIL IN LOWER CALIFORNIA
Browne's sketch from *Harper's Magazine*, October 1888.

impediment was consanguinity and the fact that he committed illicit acts with a sister, cousin and an aunt of his intended bride.

Under date of May 23, 1841, Juan Antonio Rodriguez, of Comondu asked for a dispensation to marry Paula Arce, the problem being that he had had illicit copulation with six relatives of his intended bride. It was granted under the condition of confession every three months and the payment of a fine of 20 pesos.

Not only did Prof. Martinez write thusly about the most prominent families of Baja California, but he included the following, with which we shall close:

"And here we come to a dispensation most important to the author of this work. It treats with his maternal grandparents. Cornelio Mendoza, in a document written and signed with a letter and his mark, solicited with vehemence that he be granted dispensation to marry Ma. del Rosario with whom he had a marital life and borne offspring. He, of 24 years, born and living in San Jose del Cabo, the legitimate son of Protasio and Ma. Presentacion Ojeda; she of 18 years, born and living also in San Jose, the legitimate daughter of Jose Ma. Gonzalez and Antonia Carrillo. The said document was dated May 31, 1845."

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Interview with Msgr. Francis J. Weber, Los Angeles, December 4, 1985.

and many thanks to Bill Hendricks, who provided the biographical material of Papa Martinez.



Corral Chips

When Bob Clark attends the Sacramento Book Fair, he bumps into our old friend Ranger-Active Byron (Bud) Bailey, who sends his "howdy" to the gang in Los Angeles.... A Noroeste Historical Society Symposium is held in Glendale with Walt Wheelock presiding. CM Katie Ainsworth told of Father Serra's life before reaching California. Also attending are Lindy Currie, Tony Kroll, Hugh Tolford, Norm Neuerburg, John Robinson, and George Koenig, along with CM's Bob Cates and Ken Pauley.... Doyce Nunis receives the Award of Distinction from the California Committee for the Promotion of History at their annual

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History Comes Full Circle: Honey Bees Saga

by Anna Marie Hager

Honey bees, those busy, little hairy-bodied, stinging insects, who produce honey and beeswax, have been much in the news of late.

This is only an attempt to tell of far-off New Zealand's problems in the early 1880s and of the successful solution to the pressing problem that faced sailing ships of that period.

Noah Levering, founder of the Historical Society of Southern California, had a major role in meeting New Zealand's urgent need for honey bees. For a considerable number of years New Zealand had been a leading importer of red clover seed due to the lack of bees in their own country, to help in the pollination of the clover. Consequently, the seed for each crop had to be imported from other countries. Numerous trials, prior to 1880, with shipments of bees made by leading apiarists of Europe and the United States to export honey bees to New Zealand. So essential was the need for success of this project as every effort had resulted in failure with hives arriving in Auckland filled with dead bees.

Finally, a Mr. S.C. Farr, then secretary of the Auckland Acclimation Society, sent a letter to R.J. Creighton, the official correspondent representing New Zealand and serving on the staff of the *San Francisco Post*, about their problem. Creighton communicated with Noah Levering, who was recognized as a pioneer and leading bee keeper in Los Angeles County and, who also, conducted a Department of Apiculture for the *Los Angeles Herald* and requested Levering's help in solving their dilemma.

Mr. Creighton ordered from Levering two colonies of bees which were to be sent, to San Francisco, early in July, and be placed onboard the steamer, *Australia*, to set sail for Auckland.

Levering handled all the details of the order and had hives constructed after his own plan, similar to those used in his own

apiary. Special provisions were made for ventilation, so necessary when the sailing ship crossed the equator. An opening was left in the side of the hives in front and covered with wire cloth. A small V-shaped box was placed over the opening on the outside with a sliding cover on top. The box (enclosing the hive) was filled with a sponge that had to be moistened occasionally with fresh water, from which the bees could inhale through the wire cloth and which cooled the air of the temporary traveling home. Another opening was left in the top of the hive and was covered with wire, for protection from any possible colder air, a sliding lid was provided. Several three-quarter-inch augur holes were made in the floor board and which permitted circulation of air. The alighting board and the top board, each extended out about four inches and the space between was securely locked with wire cloth and thus formed an air chamber through which the honey-makers could circulate at will or at the promptings of instinct, as the case may be. A sufficient amount of honey in an old comb, well sealed over, was provided for food, and a frame or two brood combs, empty frames and frames of empty comb, kept in place by wooden slats, filled the remaining space and supplied the working elements for the ever busy and industrious inmates.

One-half of a colony along with a queen bee were placed in each hive and the tops firmly fastened down, the object of dividing the colony was to obviate the heat which the entire colony could endanger while crossing the equator. The heat at such a time would melt the combs and cause the bees to perish in their own honey.

Levering presumed that the failure of other shippers had been due to their placing an entire colony in a hive, which, with the honey and the comb, so essential, could not withstand the great heat of the equator, a most important factor in the success of the

undertaking that had been overlooked. After the bees had been placed onboard the *Australia*, several doubters who considered themselves authorities on bee culture assured Captain Cargill, of the *Australia*, that the bees would not survive the long voyage and were most critical of the construction of Levering's hives.

Some three and a half months later, the *Herald* of Auckland announced the safe arrival of the Los Angeles County bees. More orders for similarly "packaged" bees followed. In the following months, Mr. Levering shipped a considerable number of bee colonies to New Zealand with loss of a single bee.

By 1889, the Auckland newspapers stated that the country was exporting clover seed, quite the reverse of the large importations formerly ordered. Noah Levering surely should have earned proper praise and recognition for his contributions in solving a most difficult situation for New Zealand Agriculturists.

On April 30, 1985, Bob Baker, Los Angeles *Times* correspondent contributed an unusual article titled: "Buzzing Through: Millions of Canada-bound bees cool their heels on Los Angeles Stopover."

"Four and a half million bees descended on Los Angeles on Monday, imported from New Zealand by a Canadian company. The bees traveled in 432 small wood and screen covered cages and were crammed about 10,000 to the cage (9,999 workers and the queen bee) and fit on a single pallet in the belly of a jetliner.

"Making a brief stop at Los Angeles International Airport, they waited overnight in an Air New Zealand refrigeration facility before being taken on a charter flight to Montreal.

"Due to the discovery of a parasite in isolated areas in the United States, Canadian bee importers became wary and ordered their bees from New Zealand.

"Five years ago (1980), five million bees were loaded onto a Hughes Air West jetliner, at Phoenix, for a nonstop flight to Alberta, Canada, but did not survive the trip. A 'thermal accident,' caused by loading the hives at high temperatures and overcrowd-

ing in the cargo hold was to blame.

"One pallet of bees can generate four times the heat of a small air-conditioning unit. When the bees are taken off an airplane at 70 to 80 degrees, the most important thing is to remove them from the plane as quickly as possible, after landing, and place them in a chillier facility. It is estimated that 10,000 bees produced an appropriate-sized hive.

"Monday's flight was the sixth or eighth such bee loads (each worth about \$13,000.00)."

Of interest is that it was a southern Californian who should have been recognized for his contributions to solve what had been a major problem for the earlier-day apiarists and farmers in far-off New Zealand in sailing ship days. In today's modern world, air conditioned, jet liners span great distances between New Zealand, Canada and the United States. Shipping of honey bees is truly a unique saga of cooperation between agriculturists in all three areas.

History does, indeed, come full circle, delivery of bees in the 1880s and middle 1980s, from sailing ships to jet liners.

Corral Chips continued...

meeting in Santa Rosa for his "long-term contributions" to the promotion of history.... Viewing a slide program on "Aspects of Newport, Rhode Island" at the annual fall art lecture at The Huntington Library are *Dutch Holland*, *Tony Lehman*, *Walt Wheelock*, and *AM Bruce Walton*, all of whom are agog viewing the sumptuous mansions that still stand to attract and delight visitors to historic Newport....

CM *Midge Sherwood* has just completed Volume II of a trilogy that will be a chronological history of Southern California as told through the life and times of Benjamin D. Wilson, charter mayor of Los Angeles, and his two sons-in-law, James De Barth Shorb, a political "king-maker" in the state, and George Smith Patton, district attorney of Los Angeles County and father of the World War II general. In addition, Midge was honored recently at ground-

breaking ceremonies of the Gen. Patton Museum located at Chiriaco Summit in the desert area where the General trained 80,000 men for the Army tank corps.... Just published by the University of Southern California is *The Zamorano Club Index to The History of California* by Hubert Howe Bancroft, compiled by members of the Zamorano Club and ably edited by CM Anna Marie Hager and Everett Hager. This major reference work promises to unlock a wealth of historical material previously entombed in Bancroft's ponderous tomes.... and, speaking of the indefatigable duo of the Hagers, they will also be preparing an index (scheduled as Volume 23) for Msgr. Francis J. Weber's series of documentary books on the California missions.... The 36th Annual Death Valley Encampment was held last November. As usual, the Head Honcho was Hugh Tolford, serving again as Production Chairman, as well as writing the keepsake, "This Place Called Death Valley." There were almost as many Westerners there as at a regular Taix's meeting. Among the members present were George Koenig, Phil Nadler, Bill Newbro, George Sturtevant, Don Torguson and Walt Wheelock. CM's on hand included Katie Ainsworth, Thomas Bent, Dan Cronkhite, Joseph Doctor, Walt Geisen, Palmer Long, Ron Miller, Don Snyder, Ardis Walker and who knows how many more....

Addressing the Inland Empire 4-Wheeler Club on "The Backroads of Sonora, Mexico" is peripatetic Walt Wheelock.... Bob Cowan is celebrating his 90th birthday in an appropriate way with the publication of *Foibles, Fun, Flukes, Facts*, his reflections and reminiscences of San Francisco in the first quarter of this century, World War I, and activities in Oakland and Los Angeles before 1950. Many more creative years to you, Bob.... A sizable number of Westerners is rounded up for the 25th Annual Meeting of the Western History Association in Sacramento: Todd Berens, Art Clark, Doyce Nunis, Martin Ridge, Don Torguson, and Ray Wood; AM Bruce Walton; CM's Roger Baty and Robert Hoshide. Walking off with first prize for the best paper by any Corral member in 1984 is our own inimitable Don

Torguson, who also picks up a check for \$150 and a beauty of a plaque to boot.... Tough old Herschel Logan is recovering slowly but surely from open-heart surgery and a broken hip. Herschel says that missing his compadres in the Corral is even more painful than what he has been through. We all look forward to seeing you again soon, Colonel... Serving on the advisory board for the newly organized California Museum of Latino History is CM Joe Northrup.... Just finished with a guide to Kern County's historical landmarks is CM Chris Brewer, who has also completed a second historic building survey in the city of Bakersfield in his role as an historical consultant....

Trundling off to Venice, Italy, for the 42nd International Music Festival is Ray Wood, whose ears are gloriously filled on the occasion with the music of this year's honored composer, Andrea Gabrieli.... "Star-Crossed Paths: Paul Landacre, Edward Weston, and Robinson Jeffers" is the title of Tony Lehman's article in the most recent number of the *Book Club of California Quarterly*.... Robert Weinstein, whose charm and wit are sorely missed at our meetings, nonetheless finds time to pursue his pet hobby-horse: photography. He addresses the Friends of the National Maritime Museum in San Francisco on the subject "Photographers of the Bay of San Francisco;" serves as a panelist at the California Museum of Photography at Riverside on "History in Your Attic: Preserving Family Photographs;" and completes an article for *Seaport* magazine on "Victorian Elegance Under Sail.".... CM Mary Louise Lynatt, artist, poet, and photographer, has for the past several years created some very unique and original Christmas cards. Interested members might wish to contact her further.... T.D. Cramer, Sheriff of the San Francisco Corral, has announced that Keepsake No. 2 is now available, a pamphlet on "The Later Days of the California Missions" by CM Richard Dillon. Limited to only 250 copies, this fine item can be ordered from the San Francisco Corral. In addition, talented author Dillon, ever at his typewriter thank goodness, has two more publications due out in early 1986: *My North Beach*, a

history of San Francisco's Little Italy, and *Impressions of Bohemia*, a portfolio (with text by Dick Dillon) of original etchings of authors and photographers associated with the Big Sur/Carmel/Monterey area of our state....

Msgr. Francis J. Weber was recently informed by Dr. E.C. Krupp, Director of the Griffith Observatory, that his miniature book, *Halley's 1986 Visit to Planet Earth* (Evanston, Ill., 1985), has been selected as one of the items to be inserted in the Observatory's 76-year time capsule soon to be sealed. And, in December, Msgr. Weber was one of the three concelebrants for a Mass at Santa Barbara to dedicate the newly restored presidio chapel. Our member Norm Neuerburg was chosen to do the art work for the colorful house-of-worship.... He of the redolent green onions, Dr. Alden Miller, appears before the Zamorano Club to deliver an informative talk on "The First Fifty Years of the U.S.C. School of Medicine.".... Well, we will assume it's a little bit like riding a horse, but CM Gene Bear is in the saddle these days as a disc jockey for KCSN, 88.5 F.M. Corral members who would like to have news items announced over the air should contact Gene.... Finally, Westerners International just seems to know that it can't function without representatives from the Los Angeles Corral on its Executive Board because, just as soon as *Dutch Holland* serves out his term, the group decides to install two new members from out of our midst — Paul Bailey and Hugh Tolford.



Henry K. Yeo

Times, and was distributed by United Features syndicate. Tufts drew in a realistic and photographic fashion, not as cartoons. He wrote the plots, drew the pictures, and inked the captions.

"Casey Ruggles" was a unique strip for its time, dealing with adult situations in California history — murder, political corruption — appealing to adults rather than children. Tufts' interest in California history was reflected in his plots. He described events of 100 years earlier, corresponding to the modern date of his strip. The stories utilized the California gold rush, statehood, Joaquin Murieta, and other historical places, events, and characters as integral parts of the story. Somehow Casey seemed to run into everyone at one time or another — John C. Fremont, Kit Carson, Samuel Colt, and Jean LaFitte, to name a few.

Tufts tried to remain the master of his own work, but there were many pressures on him. He tried to create full-page strips in the manner of "Prince Valliant," but the syndicate ordered him to keep the strips at half-page size. The pace was swift: he had to produce daily as well as Sunday strips. Eventually Tufts grew tired of the pressure, and in 1954 he ended the strip. He later created another strip, "Lance" on the adventures of a soldier in the Mexican-American War, but this strip never gained the national distribution "Ruggles" had enjoyed. Tufts started a new career in designing experimental aircraft, a career tragically cut short at age 56 when he died in a plane crash.

Monthly Roundup...

NOVEMBER 1985 MEETING

The Corral welcomed Henry K. Yeo, an expert on the career of illustrator and aircraft designer Warren Tufts. As an illustrator, Tufts gained national attention as the creator of the "Casey Ruggles" comic strip, begun when Tufts was just 23 years old. From 1948 to 1954 "Ruggles" appeared on the front feature page of the *Los Angeles*

Dr. Yeo illustrated his presentation with slides made from the Sunday strips. The Corral greeted with enthusiasm Ruggles' encounters with the least expected people in California's frontier history, while admiring Tufts' illustrative art style.

DECEMBER 1985 MEETING

Corral member Konrad Schrier addressed the Corral on the U.S. Army Field Artillery in the West. Emigrant trains, rail and telegraph lines, and travelers on the trails looked to the Army for protection. The Army constructed military posts and camps, their flagpoles visible for miles. The posts also featured artillery, muzzle-loading cannon that were fired several times a day to impress anyone within earshot. Gunners were almost all Civil War veterans. The Army had 5,000 field guns and plenty of ammunition left over from the Civil War. Twenty-one gun salutes were fired on special occasions such as the 4th of July and New Year's Day.

In contrast to the post salute field guns, Army operational batteries were reduced at one point from ten to just five in number. The Army neglected its batteries until after the frontier era had ended. The batteries were undermanned and used surplus Civil War gear. On the positive side, operational batteries effectively demonstrated Army firepower. Guns included the 1836 12-lb. mountain howitzer, accurate for a little gun; the 1.65 in. Hotchkiss mountain rifle, the first Army breech-loading field gun, used at Wounded Knee; the gatling gun; and the .37 mm. Hotchkiss revolver cannon. Civil War equipment for these guns remained in use until World War I! Batteries on the march faced such hazards as fording rivers, crossing over snow and mud, and rolling down steep trails. Guns on the move cast up dust clouds visible for miles. A four-gun battery needed up to 100 men and the wagons, mules, and equipment needed to supply them. Artillerymen also served as mounted infantry, taking part in many Indian War campaigns. They trained horses for draft or saddle use.

The Field Artillery played a minor role in the Indian Wars, the difficulty of moving the



Konrad Schrier

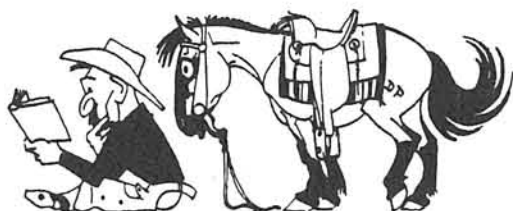
guns presenting an unsolvable problem. Yet their legacy endured, notes Schrier, as their horses fertilized the ground around Army posts and created some of the greenest fields in the West! Konnie illustrated his presentation with a series of slides depicting the Army cannon and posts.

This being the December meeting, complimentary wine was served. Don Franklin was welcomed as a new Active Member, and Ken Pauley and Joe O'Malley were announced as new Associate Members. Sheriff Jerry Selmer announced the new officers for 1986: Don Torguson is the new Sheriff; Jim Gulbranson, incoming Deputy Sheriff; Bob Clark, Registrar of Marks and Brands; Bill Lorenz, Keeper of the Chips; and Abe Hoffman, Roundup Foreman.



The real Bill Newbro — accept no substitutions.

With due apologies to George Koenig who presented a program on Death Valley to the Corral back in February 1985, our Fall 1985 issue inadvertently put George's picture in for Bill's September 1985 presentation. Apologies to all for the mixup.



DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL ...

Ransom, Harry Hunt. *THE OTHER TEXAS FRONTIER*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1984. 72 pp. Cloth, \$14.95.

Much has been written and otherwise portrayed about the founders and settlers of the Texas Frontier, with most of it creating an image of gun-toting, lusty, brawling, brash adventurers and opportunists. This book of selected writings by Harry Hunt Ransom does a splendid job of focusing on another frontier and some other Texans, "Texans without guns."

The six essays in this book, as sometimes happens, tell as much about the writer as about the subjects. They were obviously written by a man with a deep affection for his country and state and the English language which he uses with great skill. The essays were selected by Ransom's wife Hazel after the death of her husband. The first three of the literary sketches are primarily historical in subject covering the "Spirit of Texas," "The Counterfrontier in Texas," and "The Roots of Early Texas Biography." They provide an enlightening and perceptive view of the beginnings of Texas.

The final three essays highlight the lives of three important nineteenth century Texans, each of whom made important and lasting contributions to the Republic and State of Texas. Two of the subjects were medical doctors, Ashbel Smith and Sherman Goodwin. Smith was a major force in the founding of the University of Texas. Goodwin, a transplanted New Englander, influenced the life and times by his thought and action as a doctor, scientist and student of theology.

The third vignette is about Swante Palm, a merchant, scholar and book collector. Palm,

in 1897, donated his ten thousand volume library to the University of Texas and increased their holdings by sixty percent.

Ransom's thesis of a counterfrontier is certainly a valid one. As he demonstrates, the stability and civilizing influence of quiet, thoughtful, concerned and intelligent citizens is, after all, the only way real and lasting communities are developed. These essays provide a fresh perspective and added dimension to the abundant literature about what is now commonly known as the great State of Texas.

I found this a very pleasurable and informative book to hold and read. In addition to the fine historical, biographical and literary qualities of the writing, the book itself is also first rate. It is limited to 1,000 copies, typeset and printed on fine paper by The University of Texas Press. The binding is decorated hard cover with a morocco leather spine. This, with a thoughtful and provocative introduction by John Graves and a preface by the editor, Hazel H. Ransom, all combine to make this a worthwhile acquisition for any Texas aficionado or fine book lover.

Bill Lorenz

Stegner, Page. *ISLANDS OF THE WEST: From Baja to Vancouver*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1985. 152 pp. Maps, Illustrations, Notes, Bibliography, Index. Cloth, \$35.00.

For many decades now the Sierra Club has been producing beautiful and enlightening books. This volume continues the tradition we have come to expect and to appreciate: stunning photographs married to a lively, provocative text.

As the preface makes clear, the volume is only intended as a sampling of the vast offshore region that lies between the Canadian border and the tip of the Baja Peninsula. Nor is the book an illustrated sailor's guide to the area. Go to an updated *Coast Pilot* for that. Instead, Page Stegner (son of the acclaimed novelist Wallace Stegner) has chosen to focus on a single island within a group of islands, emphasizing his and photographer Frans Lanting's personal interaction with the territory,

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along with the pervading purpose of stressing the need to protect and to preserve these invaluable natural treasures.

Beginning to the south at Baja's Cedros Island, the reader is taken on a fascinating and informative journey that includes the Channel Islands, Ano Nuevo and the Farallons, Orcas Island in the San Juan Archipelago, and Vancouver Island. Stegner duly notes along the way the historical background of these places, a chronicle peppered with familiar names like Cabrillo, Sir Francis Drake, Portola, Scammon, and Vizcaino. But the emphasis remains on what man has more recently done, and often continues to do, to these incomparable locales through a litany of ignorance and thoughtlessness: the wholesale slaughter of such fur-bearing mammals as seals and sea otters; the relentless pursuit of whales for bone, blubber, or pet food; the near-extinction of the murre whose nesting grounds on the Farallons were pillaged for eggs to pander to omelet-craving palates in nearby San Francisco; the ravages of D.D.T. on California's brown pelican population; and the destruction that proceeds apace as the fragile land is carved up into roadways and building pads, forests felled, air choked with pollutants, and the sea dangerously contaminated with radioactive waste and petroleum spills.

However, don't be misled into thinking that this book is a heavy-handed piece of preaching on the part of preservationists — quite the contrary. Stegner's writing style is delightfully casual, personal, witty, graphic, and liberally leavened with humor. For example, sightseers are referred to as "peregrine snoops," and lackluster Pueblo de Cedros is called "a town so depressed and squalid that even Hieronymous Bosch wouldn't have imagined it." For my taste, one of the most delectable and not atypical passages is the description of bull elephant seals:

heads of harem... periodically rearing their scarred, parasite-encrusted, 6,000-pound bulks into the air to warn off some rubber-lipped deviate who has been skulking around the fringe of the sultan's sandbox with cuckoldry on his mind... there is nothing quite so comic as a hapless young male with a bad case of satyriasis trying to sneak

a nooner before he gets his nose bloodied by the mikado.

If Stegner's style is the sugar-coating for the ecology-oriented pill, then Frans Lanting's photographs are the attractive packaging on the prescription. Most of them — including dramatic seascapes, tidal pool closeups, tranquil forest scenes, and fog-shrouded islands — are reproduced in exquisite color. And there are also action pictures depicting breaching whales, a seal rookery (which looks like a crowded "rock festival"), and a bald eagle "stooping for herring." Yet even the photographs reinforce the book's underlying message as the reader notes the contrast between the delicate tracery of a forest fern and a smoke-spewing stack at a lumber mill, the soulful stare of a young sea otter and the blood-stained feathers of a gunshot bald eagle inert and twisted on the bare ground.

This is an eloquent book, one which entertains and enlightens while instilling a responsible attitude toward our environment and a deep reverence for life.

Tony Lehman

Hager, Anna Marie. *WINGED MAIL: from Avalon to Bunker Hill*. Los Angeles: Dawson's Book Shop, 1985. 46 pp. Illustrations, Bibliography. Cloth, \$30.00.

Over the years Dawson's Los Angeles Miscellany Series has ranged over a diverse gathering of subjects, all of them relating in some manner to our community: street lighting, barrio calligraphy (graffiti), early cemeteries, film making, Los Angeles during the Civil War, the fabled though vanished mansions of Bunker Hill, and so on. But despite the seemingly tangential nature of these volumes, taken together they provide a fascinating mosaic of the many facets of the City of the Angels that, perforce, are seldom treated in the standard general histories.

Anna Marie Hager's work, No. 16 in the on-going series, is a case in point, devoted as it is to the brief four-year period when communication between Los Angeles and Catalina (Avalon to be more precise) was conducted by carrier pigeon service.

The story is an interesting and colorful one. Because Catalina's only contact with

the mainland twenty-five miles away was the six-day-a-week voyage of the roundtrip steamer *Hermosa*, Otto, Oswald, and Lorenzo Zahn decided in 1894 to inaugurate carrier pigeon service. It was designed to serve a genuine need: Island visitors wanted some means to notify friends, families, or offices should a sudden illness or accident befall them, or perhaps they might need to inform someone of altered travel plans, changed return dates, etc. Relying on the steamer meant up to a twenty-four hour delay, but the Zahn's pigeons made the over-water flight from Avalon to Bunker Hill (where the Zahns established their mainland lofts) in an incredible hour to an hour and a half. Once the pigeon arrived in Los Angeles, the message was removed from the bird's leg and then delivered by bicycle or on foot to the recipient — all for the modest fee of no more than \$1.25 for twenty-five words, one cent per word for each additional.

So expeditious was this service that the island's local "chit-chat" editor for the *Los Angeles Times* utilized the pigeons to supply his daily column for the newspaper during the summer months when Catalina was crowded with vacationers. Surprisingly, in four years of daily flying only two birds ever failed to deliver their messages, probably falling victim to exhaustion, to hunters, or to hawks — quite a record for these delicate creatures.

The Zahns sold their successful enterprise in 1898, just in time it seems because the Marconi Wireless System was installed in 1902, giving Catalina instant access to Los Angeles, one of the first messages received on the island being the result of the Jim Jeffries prize fight on July 4, 1902. Telephone service was finally available in 1920.

In addition to chronicling the carrier pigeon adventure, the volume provides an excellent historical summary of this most settled of all the Channel Islands. Moreover, the book is well-researched, ably written, interestingly illustrated, and handsomely printed by Richard Hoffman, whose considerable skill has enhanced each of the works in this distinguished series. May there be many more to follow.

Tony Lehman

BOOKS ARE BASIC: *The Essential Lawrence Clark Powell*, edited by John David Marshall. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1985. 95 pp. Illustration, Bibliography. Cloth, \$12.50.

The name of Lawrence Clark ("Larry") Powell can hardly be unfamiliar to Southern Californians. Seventeen years as University Librarian of UCLA — though the book under review erroneously gives the figure as 28 years — brought him respect and gratitude from students and faculty for his wise leadership and his vigorous book-purchasing policies; and his gradual expansion of the university library from a humdrum collection, limited by university policy to 100,000 volumes, to an incredibly rich research library of nearly two million volumes earned him the additional prestige and gratitude of thousands of scholars and of the world of learning in general.

Resigning from this activity in 1961 (retaining only the directorship of the Clark Library, an off-campus library of 17th and 18th century scholarly and literary works), Larry Powell then devoted his heart and soul to the formation of what had long been his, and Regent Edward Dickson's, dream, a library school at UCLA. This came into being as The School of Library Service in 1960/61, and Larry was its Dean and one of its professors until his official retirement from UCLA at the end of June 1966.

Additionally, Larry Powell wrote. Most of his books deal with his favorite subject, books. Titles such as *The Alchemy of Books*, *Books in my Baggage*, and *A Passion for Books*, as well as journal articles such as "Books Will Be Read," and "The Functions of Rare Books," give an idea of his obsession with what he termed "his favorite four-letter word."

The work under review is a collection of short snippets, usually a paragraph but sometimes only one or two lines, selected from Larry's writings as a labor of love by John David Marshall of Tennessee. Mr. Marshall obtained his degree, not from UCLA but from the University of Florida, so it is a tribute to the breadth of Powell's

influence that this concentration of his bookish wisdom should have been put together by a man whose life and professional interests lie so far away from Larry's familiar haunts in our own "west southwest."

Reading the work through at one sitting one would get the idea that books and books alone exist in this world. But I don't think either Larry or his Boswell, professor Marshall, would quite agree with that. Books are the salt, the savor, of life. And Larry and his wife Fay have lived, and are still living, from their aerie in the hills north of Tucson, a rich and full life. But books have always been at the basis of it. If you want to feel something of that enormous power of books, pick up this small volume anywhere at random and enjoy. Here is one of the best pages, and one which perhaps summarizes best both Larry and his philosophy:

Three loves have I

- Collecting books
- Keeping books (which includes reading them)
- Giving books away.

(from *A Passion for Books*, 1958,
pp. 58-59)

Raymund F. Wood

Mills, Charles K. *HARVEST OF BARREN REGRETS: The Army Career of Frederick William Benteen, 1834-1898*. Glendale: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1985. 432 pp. Illustrations, Maps, Notes, Bibliography, Index. Cloth, \$35.00; limited signed collector's edition, \$75.00.

Volume 12 in the Frontier Military Series.

At first impression of this book, I must admit that I thought we may be instilled with another Custer item, with major tomes of the Battle of the Little Big Horn and the main characters; Col. Custer, Major Reno and Captain Benteen. On conclusion of the book, I had a totally different picture.

The book is a complete biography of the Army career of Colonel Benteen, not a book shadowing Custer's career nor one bringing out new information on the Indian Wars.

Benteen was a soldier's soldier, a tough,

intelligent and courageous Cavalry commander who had the respect of his men, not afraid to confront Custer or other officers higher than his own rank. Benteen was one of the few men Custer trusted and although his respect of Benteen was not openly shown, it was there, as the author shows. There is a good description of the Brevet ranks and reasons for their inscription into the military. Benteen's Civil War record was as shining as Custer's, Benteen being made officer by vote of the enlisted men, as was the case of many Civil War officers. His leadership qualities in many Civil War battles reflect the respect of his men and his daring as a Cavalry commander.

I believe the first aspiration of a Custer buff upon reading this book is to pick out questions pertaining to battle plans and locations. We can only fall back on readings of military history, of Indian battles and Civil War battles.

Mistakes I cannot find, disputable points perhaps, but we all can find a second opinion. Marcus Reno was the scapegoat for the Seventh Cavalry as so perceived by Benteen. Benteen also keeps recalling the Lt. Elliot case and the killing of 400 horses ordered by Custer at the Battle of Washita as mistakes of Custer.

The appendix, bibliography, notes and index given by the author give in good chronological order the military record of Benteen. Combined with the warmth of the character, it brings across a good biography of real people and places without rambling on with details of certain battles. The author's research on Benteen throughout his career as well as his personal life on leave from the army is well documented. This book will serve as a good addition to any research library of bibliography in Western Military History.

For a more thorough review of the Custer Indian battles perhaps an expert such as Carroll or Luther could give more rebuttal but taking the book as a whole, I think they would agree on its scholastic merits. With the quality of printing it should rank with the best volumes of the Frontier Military History series by the publisher.

Richard F. Olson

Bartlett, Richard A. *YELLOWSTONE: A Wilderness Besieged*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1985. 436 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Cloth, \$24.95.

Yellowstone epitomizes what is best in our national park system. Every year some two and a half million visitors marvel at such wonders of nature as Old Faithful, Mammoth Hot Springs, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Yellowstone Falls, and the rich variety of wildlife present in the park. The preservation of this wilderness sanctuary in northwestern Wyoming is the theme of Richard Bartlett's latest book.

The struggle to protect Yellowstone's wonders involved a century-long clash between "the strong-willed men of good will who fought to preserve this beautiful national experiment," writes Bartlett.

Indeed, Yellowstone was an experiment. Congress, when it created Yellowstone as our first national park in 1872, was "flying in the face of a human habit of spoliation more than two thousand years old." Never before had a legislative body set aside an area so large "as a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

The noble experiment almost failed in its infancy. Hungrily waiting on the sidelines was Henry Villard's Northern Pacific Railroad, seeking a rail line through the park and monopoly control of visitor facilities. When the railroad failed by the narrowest of margins to gain entrance into Yellowstone, a host of concessionaires entered the fray, each seeking control over park transportation, food and lodging. Worst of all were the early-day tourists, most of whom gave no thought to the preservation of Yellowstone's fragile beauty. Hunters slaughtered deer, elk, moose and bison by the thousands, seeking skins and trophies. Forest fires blazed out of control, often the result of campfires deserted while still burning. People stuffed geysers full of debris, chipped sinter from the geyser cones, rolled boulders down the precipitous walls of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

It seems a miracle that Yellowstone

survived those early years. A succession of mediocre superintendents, hamstrung by outside political pressures, did their best to maintain park facilities and protect natural treasures. The major factor in Yellowstone's early survival was its isolation, and the fact that visitation was limited to the summer months. "Given seven to nine months a year to recuperate, nature was able to keep up."

Yellowstone's savior during the last decades of the 19th century was the U.S. Army. The Army policed the park for thirty-two years and did a creditable job, according to Bartlett. "With its tradition of order, its well-trained, obedient personnel, and its systematic enforcement of regulations, it secured Yellowstone during a critical era."

With the founding of the National Park Service in 1916, Yellowstone entered the modern era. The first Park Service superintendent of Yellowstone was Horace Albright. "The man possessed incredible confidence and was an excellent executive," writes Bartlett. He built a capable ranger force that kept the park clean and well policed. Unlike previous administrators, Albright had a knack for public relations and used this talent to the fullest, bringing credit to the Park Service when it was sorely needed. He fought for park extension into the Tetons and held his ground when faced with angry Wyoming ranchers and reclamationists. Bartlett mildly criticizes Albright for being too cozy with park concessionaires, but states that, in the balance, "Horace Albright was the man for the Yellowstone superintendency at the time. He filled the position admirably."

In recent years, what some have called the Sagebrush Rebellion — a struggle between Western economic interests intent upon developing the region and conservationists determined to protect the park — has flared over such issues as game hunting and reclamation projects. Heated disputes have raged over the management of the park's steadily dwindling grizzly bear and elk populations, pitting naturalists against one another.

Bartlett concludes with the optimistic view that Yellowstone, though besieged in myriad ways, will prevail as a national

treasure. "It will not be as John Colter saw it in 1807 and 1808. It will be a semipristine land of forests and streams and lakes and geysers. . . . In a nation of 235 million people, who can ask for more?"

YELLOWSTONE: A Wilderness Besieged is a splendid work, well written, all encompassing, carefully documented. It ranks not only as the best book ever written about Yellowstone, but, in my opinion, as the finest history of a national park yet to appear, surpassing such classics as Carl Russel's *One Hundred Years in Yosemite* and J. Donald Hughes' *In The House of Stone and Light* (The Grand Canyon).

John Robinson

Ragsdale, Kenneth Baxter. *WINGS OVER THE MEXICAN BORDER: Pioneer Military Aviation in the Big Bend*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1984. 266 pp. Maps, Illustrations, Bibliography, index. Cloth, \$24.50.

The author takes you on a journey back to the early 1920's when Mexico was incased with revolution after revolution. He blends well the events leading up to the Escobar Rebellion which brought response from the American Government for border protection from Mexican rebels and border banditry. The border violations of rebels on the Texas ranchers in the Big Bend and visions of Pancho Villa did further their cause for border reconnaissance.

The story of the hundreds of young pilots who flew to the Elmo Johnson Big Bend Ranch-Airfield on the Rio Grande and of their hosts Elmo and Ada Johnson, who opened their home to the pilots from the first plane landing in 1929 to the closing of the field in 1944, is a compelling one.

The dirt runways and aerobatics, together with the breaking of military flying rules dramatize the image of the daring young men in their flying machines. The early aircraft used were proto-type in nature, the pilots flew DeHavilland DH-4's, Douglas O-2H's and other open cockpit aircraft of that time.

This is a well researched book as noted by many indepth interviews with pilots, some who have made their way to the top, the most famous being General Nathan F. Twining. Most of the dates of interviews are after each few paragraphs. I found that a little distracting, trying to place myself in that time frame and noting interview dates paragraph after paragraph. Perhaps the interview dates would have served a better format as footnotes.

The illustrations throughout the book are fine, varied and fit the book well, my favorite being page 185, an inside view of the Johnson Ranch which must have been a Western Americana showplace. Another map or two would have enhanced the book, though compensated by the fine dust wrapper. The printing is of the fine quality we have come to expect from the University of Texas Press.

The book covers that era in military aviation well and brings new insight to the Big Bend of Texas. It is an enjoyable book, well written, and I would recommend it to Western Americana readers.

Richard F. Olson

Briefly Noted . . .

The University of Arizona Press has re-issued *Cattle, Horses, & Men of the Western Range*, by John H. (Jack) Culley. First published in 1940, Culley's reminiscences of the Bell Ranch of northeastern New Mexico comes with a new Introduction by David Remley and is available for \$25 in library binding, \$11.50 in paperback. . . .

The University of Nebraska Press's Bison Books series offers a reprint of Jay Monaghan's *Civil War on the Western Border, 1854-1865*, originally published in 1955, at \$9.95, paperback. . . . Also from Bison Books is *Songs of the Cowboys*, compiled by N. Howard Thorp, originally published in 1908 and revised in 1921. The book contains the lyrics of dozens of songs collected between 1889 and 1908 and features a new Foreword by Tulsa Westerner Guy Logsdon, at \$15.95 cloth, \$5.95 in paperback. R. David Edmunds' *The Shawnee Prophet*, first published by University of Nebraska Press in 1983, is now available as a Bison paperback at \$7.95, a biography of Tecumseh's brother. . . .