LOS ANGELES WESTERNERS CORRAL
The Branding Iron
J. GOODMAN

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From Torrent to Trickle: The Changing Waters of the Los Angeles River

by John W. Byram

Water has been on of the major issues in Southern California over the last hundred years. The task of acquiring enough water to satisfy the population of the area is one that continues to be debated and discussed. Keeping the semi-arid location supplied with water has not been easy. In the Los Angeles area alone, water used locally is brought from northern California and the Owens and Colorado Rivers. But the city also receives water from another source; her often forgotten benefactor is Rio Porciúncula — the Los Angeles River.[1]

The Spanish pueblo called "La Reyna de Los Angeles," was founded alongside the Los Angeles River in 1781. As one author stated from the records of the time, "The pueblo of Los Angeles was established by the Spanish Crown for the primary purpose of raising subsistence supplies for the small army of occupation. These Spaniards came from a country that thrived by irrigation, and they applied their methods in Mexico and California. Water was the element that determined the location of a pueblo, and the area of the grant generally was adjusted to the available supply. This was done in the case of the Pueblo of Los Angeles."[2]

The Los Angeles River had its origin in the San Gabriel Mountains. After passing through the city, the river joined the San Gabriel River and from there both flowed southward to the sea. In the 1800's the river traveled about 30 miles from its source to its destination. Seasonal changes were evident in the ebb and flow of the river as it made its journey. In the summer, the entire river would disappear, leaving only a dry track to show it had been there. Upon the arrival of winter, just the opposite would occur. Normally a quiet stream, the river would then become a torrent of muddy water and debris. The Los Angeles River flowed underground, "bottom-side up," for most of the year, but when the rains came and the subterranean water supply grew, much more water remained in the river bed.[3]

During summers when drought was not a concern, the absence of the river did not create much of a problem, and in many places the river flowed only a few feet under the sandy basin. Winters, however, when the river raged, were another matter. Hardly a year went by without tragedy. Emma Adams, a visitor to Los Angeles in the 1880's, described the violent and treacherous Los Angeles "stream": "During the rainy season it enlarges to a broad river, with a powerful current and a dangerous shifting bottom. Widely overflowing its banks, it sweeps away real estate and personal property in a most

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THE WESTERNERS

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THE MONTHLY ROUNDUP

JULY 1987 MEETING

Corral member Abe Hoffman spoke on the career of Horace Bell, best known for his books *Reminiscences of a Ranger* and *On the Old West Coast.* Although historians have found Bell's comments on California politics and society perennially quotable, they have said little about Bell himself. Bell came out from Indiana to California during the Gold Rush and, after a brief attempt at prospecting, found other possibilities more glittering than gold. While in Los Angeles he served as a ranger, chasing bandits, and enjoyed fandangoes where he could chase girls.

Bell returned to Indiana where he was involved in anti-slavery controversies, then became by turns a filibuster under William Walker, a *juarista* in the army of Benito Juarez, and a scout in the Civil War, attaining the rank of Major.

After the war Bell, who had married and started a family, returned to California, making Los Angeles his home, At first he worked as a farmer, but at the urging of his wife he turned to a more professional career, becoming a lawyer. Recalling an early stint as a reporter, Bell wrote his memoirs as *Reminiscences of a Ranger,* publishing the book in 1881. Bitten severely by the literary bug, Bell put out *The Porcupine,* a satirical newspaper that delighted admirers and infuriated enemies. Mellowing only slightly in his later years, Bell wrote a number of manuscripts, many of them still unpublished; they are now housed in the Bell Collection at the Huntington Library. Bell died in 1918 at the age of 88.

Despite his bravery and audacity, Bell was not without his faults, some of which contra-

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merciless fashion. Scarcely a season passes in which adventurous men do not lose their lives in attempting to cross with teams when at its flood. Both driver and horses soon disappear beneath its restless quicksands. Numberless small tenements, improvidently built too near its brink, were swept from their anchorage and borne away toward the sea, or were ruthlessly wrecked on the spot. Several lives were a prey to its waters during the winter of 1884. But let the early Autumn come! Then the once raging torrent purls along, a narrow, shallow, garrulous brook, which bare-footed children may easily ford."[4]

Natural beauty abounded near this volatile body of water. Huge pastures and forests gave incentive to hunting and fishing among the city's inhabitants. Stone quarries appeared near the river.[5] Wild animals, birds, and flowers were also plentiful. Many of these creatures no longer exist near the City of Los Angeles. Mary Austin, in her *California: The Land of the Sun* (1914) related, "...a small trickle of water is among stones in a wide, deep wash, overgrown with button willow and sycamores that click their gossiping leaves in every breath of wind or in no wind at all. Tiny gold and silver backed ferns climb down the banks to drink and as soon as the spring freshet has gone by, brodiaeas and blazing stars come up between the boulders worn as smooth as if by hand. Farther up, where the stream narrows, it is overgrown by willows, alders and rock maples, and leaps white-footed into brown pools for trout. Deer drink at the shallows, and it is not so long ago that cinnamon bear and grizzlies tracked the wet clay of its borders."[6]

Two major man-made problems have plagued the Los Angeles River throughout its association with the city: the need to profitably distribute the river's water and the dispute over the river's ownership. To move the water to irrigate their crops and quench their thirst, the Spaniards devised a system of ditches to run through the young pueblo. At first, these canals were little more than trenches cut into the ground, but by the mid-nineteenth century the *zanja* (ditch) was supplying Los Angeles with its major water needs.[7]

Zanjas were one of the few ways to transport and hold water in early California, as Harry Carr wrote in *Los Angeles: City of Dreams* (1935), "The water in a desert country like Los Angeles is wasted if held in reservoirs; forty percent evaporates. Poured out into the ground sometimes eighty percent is saved."[8] The air was just too dry and hot to risk storing water for long.

By the middle of 1800's surface water had become scarce and was now inadequate for the ever increasing development of agriculture. Artesian wells had to be drilled into the underground river. Water was distributed through the Los Angeles irrigation system, an 80 mile network of canals, to farms and orchards around the city. One observer described the system this way: "The canals are called zanjas. The superintendent of the system is titled the *zanjero.* Necessarily he must be a man promptly attentive to business. When the day arrives for a certain orange orchard or vineyard to be flooded, the zanjero must have the refreshing liquid ready to laugh and ripple around the roots of the thirsty trees, the moment the gate is opened which admits it to the premises. He must also remember who wants it at night, and see that such parties get it, and in sufficient quantity; nor must he fail to withdraw it from them in the morning."[9]

Many disputes have arisen over the years as to who owns and controls the right to use the Los Angeles River. "Water privileges" were given to all the Spaniards and Indians living in the pueblo by a general law endorsed by King Charles III of Spain, upon the birth of the pueblo in 1781.[10] It did not take long for people to stretch this law. The following two examples were taken by C.P. Dorland from Spanish and Los Angeles records for the Historical Society of Southern California in 1893.

The San Fernando Mission priests set up a dam on the river outside the City of Los Angeles around 1801. The concerned city organized a committee to investigate and it found that the dam "cuts off the source of our water for irrigation, thereby causing damage and suffering." Mission authorities denied wrongdoing, said the dam had been in its location for 15 years, and asked for permission to use the water. This request was granted by the city, with the condition that if a "diminution of water" entering the city ever occurred the agreement could be rescinded.[11]

In another case, in 1873 it was established by the state Supreme Court "that the city is the un-qualified owner of all the water flowing in the Los Angeles River, necessary for all purposes of irrigation and domestic use within the city." To

that point, there had been several unauthorized farms using the river's water without permission or payment.[12]

In 1874, author Benjamin Truman wrote, "The supply of water [in the Los Angeles River] is ample for a city of ten times the present population [13,000] when properly utilized."[13] Population did shoot up rapidly, and by the early 1900's there were 130,000 citizens in the City of Los Angeles thanks to real estate booms and worldwide publicity about Southern California's climate and opportunities. Each year it became more expensive to pump up the shrinking underground water supply.

The rapidly increasing population showed no sign of letting up. Neither did the demand for water as thousands of newcomers expected the city to provide them with the liquid as a necessity of life. At the same time, many business leaders had grown wealthy on the sale of real estate and wanted continued success. There was plenty of land for continued growth, but without an increase in the supply of water, the area could not sustain either population or industrial growth. Thus Los Angeles would face the challenges of a new century: its water would be imported from far distances, from Owens Valley and the Colorado River. The Los Angeles River would never be as important as it once was in the early days of the city, but it played an important role in the history of a region.

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[1]John C. Chapman, *Incredible Los Angeles* (New York: Harper and Row, 1967), p. 205.

[2]Department of Public Service of Los Angeles, *Construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct: Final Report, Board of Public Service Commissioners* (Los Angeles, 1916), p. 31.

[3]Mary Austin, *California: The Land of the Sun* (London: Adam and Charles Black, 1914), p. 30.

[4]Emma H. Adams, *To-and-Fro in Southern California* (Cincinnati: W.M.B.C. Press, 1887), p. 67-68.

[5]C.P. Dorland, "The Los Angeles River — Its History and Ownership," *Historical Society of Southern California Annual (1893)*, p. 32.

[6]Austin, p. 31.

[7]Chapman, p. 204.

[8]Harry Carr, *Los Angeles: City of Dreams* (New York: D. Appleton and Century Company, 1935), p. 210.

[9]Adams, p. 69.

[10]Chapman, p. 205.

[11]Dorland, p. 32-33.

[12]*Ibid.*, p. 35.

[13]Benjamin C. Truman, *Semi-Tropical California* (San Francisco: A.L. Bancroft and Company, 1874), p. 20.

IN MEMORY OF
August W. Schatra
by Art Clark

The Corral lost one of its loyal members in early 1987 in the passing of August Schatra. Augie had joined as a CM in 1956, became an Active Member in 1960, served as a Wrangler until his selection as Deputy Sheriff for 1967, and as the Corral's Sheriff in 1968. Not content to take a back seat, he then served three years as our Librarian.

Augie's quiet, unassuming manner belied his consuming interest in things Western and in the activities of the Corral. As a result of his reticence he was perhaps not well known to many of the Westerners of these later years, but to many of the older members he was a loyal and respected friend.

He was an avid reader of Western history particularly in areas of peace officers, outlaws, cattle, the fur traders, and was a collector of mementos of Lucky Baldwin. The *Branding Iron* issues reveal many of Augie's contributions to the Corral activities, and include an article on a member of Fremont's Fourth Expedition, as well as book review and obituary items.

Augie was among several L.A. Westerners who had attended almost all of the Western History Association Conferences from their beginning at Santa Fe in 1961 on to very recent years.

A resident of San Marino, his life work was in the detailed and exacting work of photoengraving and lithographic color work.

A DEDICATION TO THE MEMORY OF RAMON F. ADAMS 1889-1976

By W. David Laird
University of Arizona
(reprinted by permission of the author)

The Life of Ramon Frederick Adams (that's RAY-mun, not raw-MOAN) may be the perfect model for a twentieth-century life as a lexicographer and bibliographer. Although he authored more than twenty books, he did not make a living as a writer. Bibliographers never do. Still, when he died just a few months short of his eighty-seventh birthday in 1976, his books were well known to librarians, book-sellers, and readers of Western Americana. His books about books and books about words were, and still are, commonly cited as *the* authoritative source of information on the subjects he chose: cowboy words, outlaws and bad men, the cattle industry, and errors in western histroical writing, to name a few.

A writer once told me he judges the quality of a library by looking up his own name in its card catalog. I have since learned the practice is common. "If the library has one of my books," he opined, "it is okay. If it has three or four it is good. If it has more than four it is outstanding." By those standards Ramon Adams would certainly have been pleased with the University of Arizona Library. As I write this tribute I have before me copies of all Ramon Adams' books from *Cowboy Lingo* (1936) to two posthumous titles published by the University of Oklahoma Press, *The Language of the Railroader* (1977) and *More Burs Under the Saddle* (1979). Over the years the University of Arizona Library has deemed it advisable to buy every Ramon Adams title, including the variant editions. Even the Italian translation of his 1957 collection *The Best of the American Cowboy* is here, and for many of the titles there are multiple copies: one for circulation, one to be always available in a reference collection or the Special Collections department.

Ramon Frederick Adams was born October 3, 1889 in Moscow, Texas. His father, a man with skilled hands, was a railroad telegrapher and later a jeweler in Houston and Sherman where Ramon grew up. A man of poetical bent and with skilled hands of his own, Ramon was a musician. His first writing efforts were poetry jotted down while he guarded the Adams family milk cow.

Following his graduation from Austin College, Sherman, Texas, in 1912, he took a position as a music teacher at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. It was common in those days for underpaid professors to live with a local family. Ramon boarded with the Jarman family and with a speed that was not typical of his later life, he courted and won in six weeks the Jarman's daughter, Allie, his partner for life. Their son, Elman, was born in 1914 in Fayetteville, but the Adams family soon moved to Chicago. During the next ten years Ramon Adams became an accomplished violinist. He studied and taught in Chicago, then returned to Texas to teach in Wichita Falls, Fort Worth (he played in small orchestras in theaters during the era of silent movies), and finally Dallas. In Dallas disaster struck. Cranking a cranky Model T, the handle kicked back breaking his wrist and ending his musical career. Seaking a new means of livelihood he and Allie opened a candy store in 1929.

Jeff Dykes, no mean bibliographer himself, says that it was during the early years in Dallas that Ramon began his book collecting. Eventually the short money supply during the Great Depression forced him to sell that first personal library. Subsequently the candy store became a successful operation and developed from candy sales to candy manufacturing. Dykes remembers Allie Adams Pecan Candies as perfect for his sweet tooth. The library brought $700 from a Texas oil man, a very impressive sum for those difficult depression years.

Ruminating upon his first few years as a non-musician, it is easy to imagine that the life of a

shopkeeper and manufacturer left something to be desired. It also left available time formerly filled with hours for violin practice. Ramon turned to words; to words and to books, for, according to Robert W. Stephen, he began to rebuild his private collection and sometimes sneaked his purchases into the house to avoid explanations (friends have said that explanations would not have been necessary; Allie understood very well the man she had married). In 1959, four years after selling the candy business, Ramon sold his personal library again, this time to invest the money and provide a secure retirment income.

Predictably, the ink was barely dry on the check before Ramon started hitting the bookstores. A regular visitor to a number of book sellers' establishments, he did not buy books in bulk but carefully chose titles both for their price and their intellectual value. Three years after his death, in 1979, his library was put up for sale once again. Sold by catalog, this third collection amounted to more than 1750 items, each accompanied by a certificate signed by Allie Adams testifying that the book had been in Ramon's collection at the time of his death. In an introduction to the catalog Robert W. Stephens tells something of Adams' life, useful for the present writer's work.

Soon after moving to Dallas Ramon sold several magazine articles, and in 1936 his first book, *Cowboy Lingo,* was published. This book, produced for his own satisfaction, was written in the early morning hours after long days at the candy store. This must have been an arduous task for, as David Grossblatt, Dallas bookseller and friend to Adams in later years, had said, "He was not, after all, a wordsmith." True, but he was a friend of words! *Cowboy Lingo* is essentially a *dictionary* in narrative form. Wonderful, funny, and edifying to read, it would nonetheless be a terrible frustration without its index which allows *dictionary access* to pithy sayings and gifted definitions of them.

Book number two, *Western Words,* arranged in traditional dictionary format, has been called a companion volume to *Cowboy Lingo,* and it seems to grow naturally from its predecessor. *Cowboy Lingo* is enjoyable reading; *Western Words* is enjoyable dipping and browsing. The greatly expanded version of *Western Words* which was issued in 1969 is as close as one is likely to come to a comprehensive study of the meaning of words used by the participants in the cattle business.

Throughout his life Adams returned to a book form I have called a "narrative dictionary." Texts that are chock-full of jargon, slang, and unusual words presented so that explanation and definitions are part of the whole. After *Cowboy Lingo,* three of Adams' books fit this description. Unfortunately all three, *Come an' Get It* (1952), *The Old-Time Cowhand* (1961), and *The Cowman Says It Salty* (1971), lack the index that would turn narrative into ready-reference tool. What they do not lack is a seemingly endless supply of words and phrases that will delight anyone with even a slight interest in cowboys, cattle, and range life. Here are mines of words and phrases waiting the pick and shovel of screenwriters working on the next Clint Eastwood epic.

It was *Six-Guns and Saddle Leather* that gave Ramon recognition that no dictionary could. A superb piece of bibliographic scholarship, it was recognized almost instantly by librarians and booksellers as a map of the uncharted "badlands" of publications about western outlaws and gunmen. In the revised and enlarged edition of 1969, Ramon chose 2,491 items to dot his map: documents, articles, books, pamphlets, anything of significance that added to the portrait of the western badman. The bad books are included along with the good, and what users appreciated most is Ramon's annotations. They leave no doubt which is which! *Six Guns and Saddle Leather* was chosen by A.C. Greene as one of *The Fifty Best Books on Texas.* He said of it that it was created by a "dedicated man whose life will reward scholars for at least another hundred years...." High praise, justly deserved.

Once having tackled a large bibliographic project myself, I visualize Ramon's work space in the fifties as an "organized clutter": card files in various states of completion, books here and there, some waiting to be reviewed, other for reference or comparison. I also visualize the bibliographic vista before him, an endless and largely uncharted landscape made up of hundreds of interrelated subjects, each one mixing, mingling, overlaying, and relating to the others. While learning about one the researcher inevitably learns much about the others.

Officially "retired" following the sale of the

candy business in 1955, Ramon turned extra attention to his research efforts and produced another important book. *The Rampaging Herd,* with its coverage of all aspects of the cattle business: cowboys, ranch owner, big spreads, range wars, rustlers, and more, captured additional fans for the Ramon Adams fan club. Nearly three thousand items with the same brand of pithy annotation that made *Six-Guns and Saddle Leather* such a pleasure to read.

From his inital interest in the words of cowboys it was almost inevitable that Ramon's path would lead from one part to another of that general subject. The boundary between cowboys and outlaws blurs under scrutiny as does the line between ranching and the frontier. In life, as Robert Frost has noted, "way leads into way" and one cannot retrace the path not taken. True of life, not necessarily true of bibliography. Ramon managed to take several paths.

The critical bibliographer, as opposed to the mere list of publications, must read and be familiar with the literature in a chosen field. Even as Ramon's bibliographic efforts were moving forward, so too was his knowledge of what had been written. He was nonplussed, temporarily, by the errors and contradictions he found. Incorrect dates for events, the wrong participants listed, and similar factual errors riddle the historical works of western literature. Once printed, errors seem to take on a life of their own and are repeated again and again, often by otherwise careful scholars. As Ramon viewed them, they were "burs under the saddle" of history: errors which turned an otherwise comfortable ride into a bucking contest between horse and rider. How best counteract these sins? A book, for course, a book of unusual character. A book corrective of the sins of other books. Thus was *Burs Under the Saddle* born.

Soon after *Burs Under the Saddle* was published many a western writer and historian became nervous and some, no doubt, whirled in their graves. Scrutinizing more than four hundred publications, Ramon took them to task for sloppiness and careless research, stopping short of accusing any serious historian of outright prevarication. Although sometimes it is difficult to follow the sequence of which publication and whose story came first, still *Burs Under the Saddle* can be read for both pleasure and profit today, and if I were a historian tackling any subject that might have been in the line of Ramon's tracks I would surely check its index carefully. as a historian once said to me, Ramon even reached back from the grave to tweak the nose of the guilty. *More Burs Under the Saddle,* issued three years after his death, finds and illuminates significant errors in two hundred additional works of supposed fact.

Ramon Adams, bibliographer, lexicographer, historical sleuth, and friend of words and truth, was also a biographer. He considered the life of western artist Charles M. Russell, which he co-authored with Homer E. Britzman, to be his best book. A brief biography of western historian Wayne Gard and the "as told to" autobiography of cowboy Bob Kennon are substantial works. Although these books will be referred to for decades, they aren't the ones A.C. Greene had in mind, for it is as historical critic and builder of dictionaries and bibliographies that his name will be known by generations of librarians, booksellers, scholars, and writers. And for that myriad, the readers who know the good stuff when they see it, Ramon's books will be his monument.

A COMPLETE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE BOOKS OF RAMON F. ADAMS

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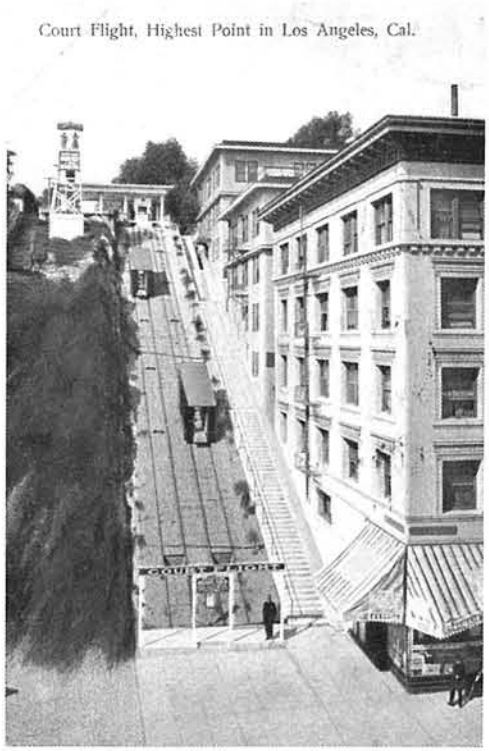


Picture post card of Court Flight after it opened on December 31, 1901. (BELOW) The 335 foot 2-foot 6-inch gauge railway, circa 1934, now included a cafe and ticket office on Hill Street. — *All Ernest Marquez Collection*

Court Flight was pretty run down in its final years. Bunker Hill residents found it cheaper to take the steps.

Court Flight

by Ray Zeman

Flames ravaged the creaky ruins of the shortest railroad in the world on October 19, 1943 — right in the shadow of the Los Angeles City Hall — and many a pioneer resident paused in the Civic Center to reminisce in sorrow.

It wasn't a big fire and it came from the usual cause — a lighted cigarette tossed aside — but it struck at the quaint Court Flight Incline Railway on the east slope of Bunker Hill.

Across Broadway from the old Hall of Records, midway between 1st and Temple streets, the sparks raced speedily in the palms and underbrush and onto the ties of the old cable car line.

Here for 38 years, until September, 1942, two Toonerville era cars shuddered up and down the steep slope to save passengers from walking 140 breath-taking steps. Fares varied from two rides for a nickel to 50 for 50 cents.

Tourists used to take the cars, and the nearby Angels Flight, to see Santa Catalina Island from the hilltop on a clear day. Court Flight early in the century carried many a wedding party away from a Bunker Hill mansion. Then, in later years, it carried many a mourner up for a funeral.

That's why it didn't matter much in 1943 exactly what caused the blaze or how many fire hoses were needed to extinguish it. Lawyers, judges, veterans in public services left their offices to see the flames adding their fury to help erase another bit of the past from a streamlined Los Angeles.

Western Rifles

by Konrad F. Schreier, Jr.

The U.S. Army's "trap door" Springfield rifles were among the most important of any arms used in The West. Of course the U.S. Army used them from their first issue in 1866, and they were offered on the civilian market not long after. The first were assembled using rejected parts turned out as the U.S. Army Springfield Armory was learning to make the rifles, and many civilian "trap doors" show this origin with parts marked with the letter "C."

Early model changes led to the Army selling "obsolete" trap doors surplus to the civilian market. This led to an ever expanding trade in them, and to a number of civilian arms makers reworking them. In addition to the original U.S. Army rifle calibers .50 and .45, they were made in .40-70 Sharps, .43 Remington, and other heavy black powder rifle calibers. They were also modified into 20 gauge shotguns!!

The prices for the issue and modified trap door Springfields shown on this 1890 John P. Lovell Arms Co., Boston, Massachusetts are actually what is now called "retail list." In the preface to the catalog which tells how to "mail order" there is also a description of how to purchase at a discount. Discounts ran from 10% and free crating for cash with order to over 30% for large orders from either merchants or groups of people such as gun clubs who pooled their orders.

Despite the wide use of firearms in The West, very few were ever named as a tribute to the area. This small excerpt from the catalog of J.H. Johnston's Great Western Gun Works of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania shows an exception: The No. 5 Pacific Ballard Rifle.

The Pacific Ballard was a first quality rifle made by The Marlin Firearms Co. from about 1875 until 1890. It was offered by dealers from coast to coast, and its heavy calibers were certainly well suited to hunting conditions.

The Pacific Ballard model is distinguished by an underbarrel ramrod, double set triggers, and its heavy caliber. Unfortunately it is seldom marked with either its name or No. 5 model designation.

Today a Pacific Ballard rifle is a relatively rare and prized collectors arm, and one will command a good price.

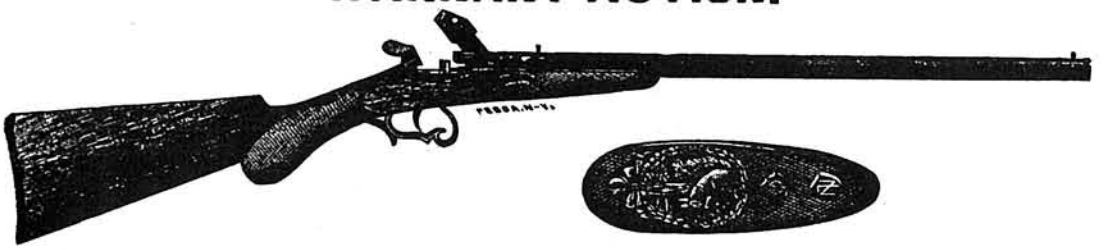
The famous line "Winchester, the gun that won The West" has been around since before the Turn-of-the-Century, and to a limited extent it is true. First in truth it was only one of the guns which won The West, along with the Colt army caliber revolvers, the U.S. Army Springfield rifle, and many others.

Second it must be understood that the Winchester that won The West was their lever action repeating rifle, and it came many models and calibers. This excerpt from the 1880 catalog of Homer Fisher's mail order firearms and accessories catalog shows exactly what Winchesters they were selling at the time. Note the limitations of calibers of ammunition dictated by conditions of the time.

Homer Fisher dealt from 299 Broadway, New York City through a mail order catalog. He was one of the first into this mail order trade having started about 1865 when the combination of reliable mail and express service made practical. The mail order in arms and their accessories began as early as any such trade.

The catalogs were distributed through the mail, often from magazine ad replies. Merchandise orders were sent in through the mails, and the goods were shipped express. Old time records show everyone except the local merchants who lost trade due to it was happy with the mail order trade from its inception.

WARNANT ACTION.



No. 10 W. Flobert Rifle, Warnant system, polished blued octagon steel barrel, oiled walnut stock, checkered grip, rifled 22 calibre..... $5 00

No. 11. Warnant action, *pistol grip*, otherwise same as above..... 5 50

No. 12. Heavy Warnant action, pistol grip, otherwise same as No. 1 W..... 7 00

No. 21. W. P. H. Flobert Rifle. New improved Warnant action; safe, strong, durable, polished blue octagon steel barrel, pistol grip, oiled polished walnut stock, full checkered, rubber butt, rifled 22 calibre.....$8 00

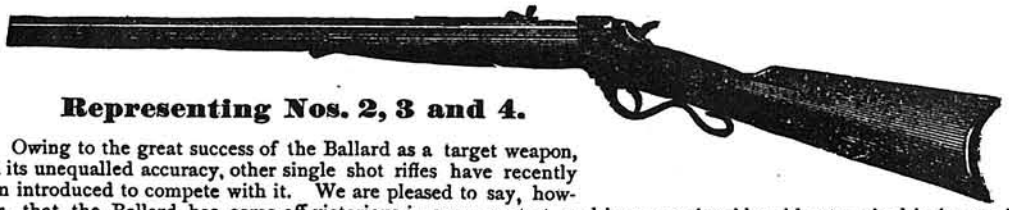
Many persons do not understand the various terms or names applied to the amunition used in Flobert rifles, and for their convenience we have inserted cuts of the different styles with their various names. The cuts are full size.

B. B. C. B. 22 SHORT. 22 LONG.

Ball cap or Flobert. or conical Flobert. Rim fire. Rim fire.

No. 0 Flobert use only B. B. or C. B. caps, and all other styles use any or all of the above named cartridges.

BALLARD RIFLES.

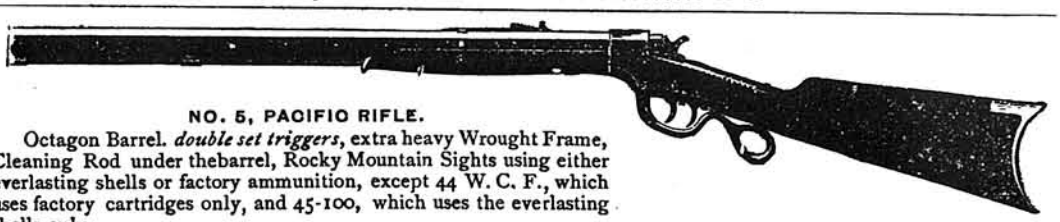


Representing Nos. 2, 3 and 4.

Owing to the great success of the Ballard as a target weapon, and its unequalled accuracy, other single shot riffes have recently been introduced to compete with it. We are pleased to say, however, that the Ballard has come off victorious in every contest, and is unquestionably without a rival in its special feature, UNEQUALED ACCURACY.

No. 2. SPORTING RIFLE, Octagon barrel, Rocky Mountain sights. The 32 and 38 cal. have reversible firing pins, using 32 or 38 long catridges, either rim or central fire. The 44 cal. uses centre fire cartridges 44 Winchester. This style does not use everlasting sheels.

32	Calibre,	24 to 28 inch,	7½ to 8½ lbs.	$11 50	30 inch,	$12 00
38	"	28 inch,	8½ lbs.	11 50	30 "	12 00
44	"	30 "	9 lbs.	12 00		



NO. 5, PACIFIC RIFLE.

Octagon Barrel. *double set triggers*, extra heavy Wrought Frame, Cleaning Rod under thebarrel, Rocky Mountain Sights using either everlasting shells or factory ammunition, except 44 W. C. F., which uses factory cartridges only, and 45-100, which uses the everlasting shells only.

As its name indicates, the favorite on the Pacific coast. It is THE hunting rifle of the West, and enjoys the best commendations from hunters of buffalo, elk, deer, bear and other large game.

SPRINGFIELD SHOT GUN.

20 GAUGE.

Breech-loading, 20 ga., central-fire sporting gun, using paper or metallic shot shells, blued steel barrels and case-hardened mountings, length of barrel 28 and 30 inches, weight 7 lbs. This gun is strongly recommended for absolute safety and great durability. The system is the same as adopted by the U. S. Government.....$7.50

Trowel or entrenching bayonets for 45 calibre rifles..... .75

Special quotations made on solid lots of Breech-loading Arms on application. **Parts for 45 calibre U. S. Rifles and Carbines.** Packing boxes from 75c. to $2.00 for 20 Guns.

BREECH-LOADING RIFLES—Continued.

WINCHESTER REPEATING RIFLES.

Sporting Rifle, Round Barrel, Plain Trigger.

MODEL 1866.

Price	$23 00
Length of Barrel	24 inch
Calibre	44–100
Number of Shots	17
Weight	9 lbs.
Extra for Octagon Barrel	$1 00

This model was first introduced in 1866 to supersede the Henry Rifle, which had from 1860 been manufactured by the New Haven Arms Co., which was succeeded in 1866 by the Winchester Repeating Arms Co.

This gun uses a Rim Fire Metallic Cartridge $\frac{44}{100}$ Calibre, with 28 grains of powder and 200 grains of lead.

MODEL 1873.

	Round Barrel.	Half Octagon Barrel.	Octagon Barrel.
Price	$27 00	$29 00	$29 00
Length of Barrel	24-inch	24-inch	24-inch
Calibre	44-100	44-100	44-100
Number of Shots	15	15	15
Weight	8¾ lbs.	8¾ lbs.	9 lbs.

The first and most important improvement in this model consists in adapting it to the use of a longer and centre-fire cartridge, holding a charge of 40 grains of powder instead of 28, as in the model of 1866, retaining the same calibre $\frac{44}{100}$, and the same weight of ball, viz. : 200 grains.

Ramon Adams (Continued). . .

The Cowboy and His Humor. Austin: Encino Press, 1968. 71 pp.

The Cowman and His Code of Ethics. Austin: Encino Pres, 1969. 33 pp.

Wayne Gard: Historian of the West. Austin: Steck-Vaughn, 1970. 44 pp.

The Cowman Says It Salty. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1971. 163 pp.

The Horse Wrangler and His Remuda. Austin: Encino Press, 1971, 51 pp.

The Adams One-Fifty: A Check-list of the 150 Most Important Books on Western Outlaws and Lawmen. Austin: Pemberton Press, 1976. 91 pp.

The Language of the Railroader. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1977. 180 pp.

More Burs Under the Saddle; Books and Histories of the West. Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1979. 182 pp.

Photography Tired Eyes Newton

Deputy Sheriff Bob Clark, Josh Hoffman, speaker Abe Hoffman, and Sheriff Jim Gulbranson.

dicted his virtues. He defended Hispanic rancheros against rapacious landgrabbers, yet he was antisemitic. Bell represented unpopular clients in court, and his bombastic personality offended prosecutors and judges. Hoffman noted that Bell had the good fortune to outlive his enemies, and his life spanned California history from gold rush days to World War I, giving him the privilege of being both participant and observer in a generous slice of American history.

In other Corral activities, Everett and Anna Marie Hager have both been awarded Honorary Membership in the Corral, and Max Barnett was elevated to Associate Member.

Photography Frank Newton

Deputy Sheriff Bob Clark, speaker Richard Upton, and Sheriff Jim Gulbranson.

AUGUST 1987 MEETING

Richard Upton, author of *The Custer Adventure,* spoke on the changing image of George Custer in American history. In 1876 Custer was arguably the most well-known person of his time, and his name is still one for historians to reckon with. Yet today Custer's reputation is a negative one that contrasts with the popular image of a century ago. Upton explored the course of the change in image from hero to villain in films and literature. Following the disaster at the Little Big Horn, Custer was initially seen as a martyr. Over the years, however, Custer facts became blurred into legend. The legend included a track record of victories, a shocking and tragic death, defeat by an overwhelming number of brave enemies, and other elements such as allegedly being the last one to die. Paintings, books, and stories in great numbers celebrate the Custer adventure, providing all the ingredients necessary for legendary status.

Since 1876 the legend has included the writings of Custer himself, a favorable biography by Frederick Whitaker, and the writings of Elizabeth, Custer's widow, who lived until 1933. Criticism of Custer did not surface until 1926 and the appearance of *Story of the Little Big Horn,* the first objective study. After Mrs. Custer's death the Custer image began to change. *Glory Hunter* appeared in 1934 as the first revisionist history, very critical of Custer. Then came *They Died with Their Boots On,* starring Errol Flynn and Olivia De Havilland, styled by Upton as "the perfect Custer couple," in 1941. But this was the high point of Custer fame. By contrast, *Little Big Man* portrayed Custer as a psychotic fool, using him as a foil for the anti-war 1960s sentiment. Recently, *Son of the Morning Star* has redressed the balance somewhat.

A brushfire on the Custer battlefield in 1983 made it possible to organize an archaeological dig on the site. After two years this dig caught major media attention, reviving Custer as a metaphor of one sort or another for everyone from sportswriters to Johnny Carson.

SEPTEMBER 1987 MEETING

It would be nice to report that C.M. Phil Bevis showed the Corral slides of his home town, but unfortunately his topic was much more serious than a light-hearted look at the old homestead. Located near San Jose, the San Ramon Valley is currently undergoing tremendous changes as it moves from a rural region to major urban/suburban growth. This change is taking place at the expense of the history and geography of the valley. The older settled areas supported agri-

Photography Frank Newton

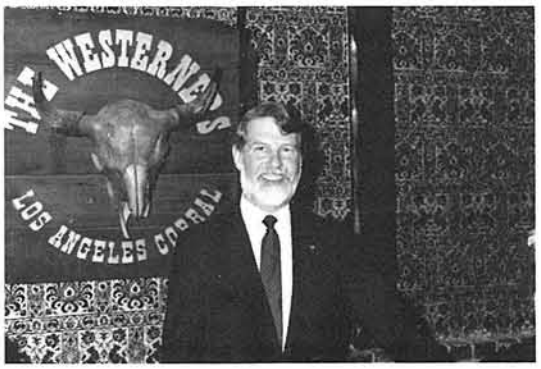
September speaker Phil Bevis.

culture, horse and cattle raising, and offered expanses of gently rolling hills and open spaces. The brown rolling hills, however, have been and are being bulldozed for expensive homes and new industry. The valley has been almost entirely zoned and approved for thousands of single-family homes.

All of this development marks the impending end of the scenic 10-mile-long valley as Bevis remembers it. The town of San Ramon has mushroomed with shopping centers, country club and golf course, $250,000 tract homes, and the world's largest office park.

Bevis argues that development in the San Ramon Valley has run rampant, the construction and population growth failed to take into account the need for schools, planned highways, parks, and open space. The area is being ruined without regard for long-term environmental consequences. Bevis expressed pessimism about the valley's future as it becomes another example of badly planned suburban sprawl.

NOVEMBER 1987 MEETING



Photography Frank Newton

November speaker Gary Moulton.

At the November meeting Gary Moulton of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, editor of the Lewis and Clark expedition journals, gave a slide presentation providing a visual look at the famous Corps of Discovery and its accomplishments, and the unusual history of its records. Meriwether Lewis showed managerial and scientific talent and kept journals during the trek, but he died in 1809 before writing up the expedition's report. William Clark lacked literary talent but had engineering and cartographic abilities. Sargeant Patrick Gass published an account, but his raw journal was so revised in its literary style as to make it a literary rather than an historical work. Gass' original journal is lost; the published version is of some use, but does not give an overall picture.

Clark turned his materials over to Nicholas Biddle who took the raw journals, paraphrased them into a narrative account, and focused mainly on ethnography, leaving the expedition's scientific observations to others. He also worked the journals over, making interlineal marks all over them. Biddle gave the journals to the American Philosophical Society in 1814, and there they remain to this day. The Biddle work was published in a two-volume set in 1814. Clark didn't get a copy until Thomas Jefferson sent him his personal copy in 1816.

In 1893 Elliot Coues was asked to publish a reprint of the Biddle edition. Coues went much further, adding an index, preliminary materials, and explanatory footnotes. Finding the original journals at the American Philosophical Society, Coues used them extensively, his "rediscovery" sparking an ongoing interest in Lewis and Clark, especially for the scientific role Biddle had neglected. Coues, like Biddle, worked the journals over, adding his own interlineations to them, and rearranging, clipping, and pasting pages in a manner totally unacceptable to modern scholarship. Moreover, Coues' footnotes overwhelmed the Lewis and Clark text, frequently outnumbering the journals' lines on the pages. Coues' edition ran to four volumes.

On the occasion of the Lewis and Clark centennial, Reuben Gold Thwaites produced a complete new edition of the journals, utilizing all known materials, including records kept by Clark's descendants. Many of Clark's records duplicated Lewis's, possibly because of fear of loss. Several other journals kept by expedition

members also were located and used by Thwaites, who took eight volumes to compile his edition.

Lewis and Clark materials still turn up occasionally, such as items found in the Biddle home (now a museum), especially the journal of Sargeant Ordway, an intelligent enlisted man's account. Milo M. Quaife edited Ordway's journal, putting in too much annotation where Thwaites had too little. In 1953, still more materials were located — 67 loose sheets in Clark's handwriting, raw notes kept prior to the expedition's departure. This provided a filling in of the last gaps between August 1803 and September 1806. These papers, well edited and published by Ernest S. Osgood, eventually ended up at Yale.

Moulton concluded his presentation by announcing that the University of Nebraska Press is putting out a new and hopefully definitive edition of the Lewis and Clark journals, to run eleven volumes.

In other Corral activities, Bruce Walton and Ken Pauley were advanced to Active Membership, and Harold Edgar and Phil Bevis became Associate Members.

DECEMBER 1987 MEETING

Paul Allen, Western scholar and historian, addressed the Corral on the recency of Western frontiers. The first frontier in America was English; the first truly American frontier, argued Allen, did not occur until 100 years later as pioneers crossed the Appalachians.

As for California, the recency of the frontier is quite remarkable. The American frontier began with the arrival of Jedediah Smith in 1926 — not that far back, given the fact that a few people may still be around who as children met the first American pioneers in old age. Allen examined Frederick Jackson Turner's three criteria for a frontier — hither edge of free land, four people or less per square mile, and the processes of discovery, exploration, and first settlement. After 1869 the "Western" frontier moved north and south, thanks to railroads.

Photography Frank Newton

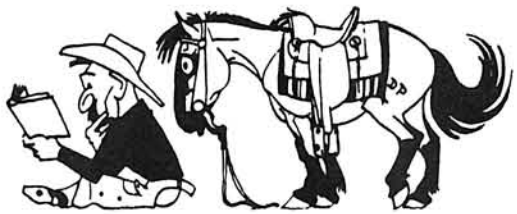
December speaker Paul Allen.

Allen described the development of the typical pioneer home from crude cabin to modern house, and the attitudes of the pioneers toward marriage, widowhood, and remarriage. Two modern places that still qualify as real frontier areas, noted Allen in his concluding remarks are Alaska and Maine.

As is traditional with the December meeting, complimentary wine was served, and Colette was recognized for her support of the Corral meetings.

The 1988 officers were announced. They are:

Sheriff - Bob Clark
Deputy Sheriff - Bill Lorenz
Keeper of the Chips - Don Franklin
Registrar of Marks and Brands - Sig Demke
Publications Editor - Don Duke
Past Sheriff Trail Bosses - Hugh Tolford and Jim Gulbranson



DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL ...

Wheelock, Walt. BAJA ROAD LOG. Glendale: La Siesta Press, 1987. 120 pp. Maps and illustrations. Softbound, $6.95.

Walt Wheelock has done it again. The author of a half dozen books on Baja California has now written a clear, concise guide to the highways and side roads of the peninsula to the south.

The book originated following the Arthur H. Clark Company's decision to discontinue Whee-

lock and Gulick's *Baja California Guidebook* and confine its publishing efforts to the scholarly, fine-printed works for which it has so long been famous.

Baja California travelers, casual and serious alike, will appreciate *Baja Road Log.* Walt has keyed the driving log to the Mexican highway kilometer markers rather than cumulative mileages — much an easier task for the driver than the old method of mentally computing distances as you speed down the highway. For example, if your destination is the Scammon's Lagoon whale watch, the log tells you that the turn-off point is adjacent to the posted 208 km marker.

This reviewer used *Baja Road Log* on a recent trip to Loreto and the cave paintings and found the book quite accurate and valuable. Driving instructions are concise and easy to read and the kilometer marker readings proved to be a great improvement over the system used in older guides.

The book is enhanced by the brief but informative accounts of Baja California's geography, history, flora and fauna, along with handy hints on Mexican money and crossing the border.

There are remarkably few of the typographical lapses that have often bedeviled La Siesta publications. The only serious miscue discovered by this reviewer is that the Tijuana-Ensenada toll road is labeled Ensenada *Cuarto* rather than the correct *Cuota* (p. 47).

Baja Road Log, in this writer's opinion, is the best of the several current road guides to our neighboring peninsula to the south. It will be welcomed by all Baja California travelers as a worthy successor to Wheelock and Gulick's previous work. Well done, Walt!

John Robinson

ICEBOUND: *The Jeannette Expedition's Quest for the North Pole,* by Leonard F. Guttridge. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1986. 357 pp. Maps, illustrations, references, index. Cloth, $23.95.

From Columbus to NASA, governments have sponsored exploration programs to increase our understanding and knowledge of the world. As part of the price, the pathway to that knowledge is littered with the wreckage of failure — the *Santa Maria* sunk by boreworms, the *Challenger* done in by faulty o-rings. One of the most fascinating failures occurred just over a century ago. At a time when the "closing" of the Western frontier was about a decade away, the Arctic frontier was still unconquered. As author Leonard Guttridge notes, scientists of the 1870s knew more about the moon, which they could see through telescopes, than they did of the Arctic, about which they could only theorize. Several countries sent one expedition after another, efforts that usually met with failure or disaster, in attempting to solve the "Arctic Question."

Guttridge focuses upon the voyage of the *Jeannette,* led by Lt. George W. De Long, and the expedition's efforts to reach the North Pole. Ambitious and self-assertive, De Long won the backing of the wealthy but erratic publisher of the *New York Herald,* James Gordon Bennett. In an arrangement not considered unusual for the time, the U.S. Navy sponsored the expedition, but Bennett provided the money. On July 8, 1879, the *Jeannette,* with a complement of 33 men, set out for the Arctic from San Francisco. De Long hoped to validate a theory about the Arctic popular at the time — that Northern Pacific currents going through the Bering Strait created a temperate zone around the North Pole. Whoever made it through the ice would find it smooth sailing to the Pole.

The *Jeannette* never made it. Barely two months out, she was caught in the pack ice. De Long learned through harsh experience that the "Paleocrystic Sea" was a fantasy; that Wrangel Land, thought to be a peninsula of Greenland, was only an island; that water from melted pack ice was undrinkable; and other hard lessons.

For two years the men of the *Jeannette* lived in the clutches of the pack ice, until the ship was finally crushed. The officers and men then tried to reach the Lena Delta of northern Siberia in hopes of finding a settlement. One of their three small boats, and the men on it, disappeared in a storm; a second, under engineer George Melville, did reach a small settlement. The third, under De Long, reached the Lena Delta but the men became mired among the complexity of

islands and streams. Twenty of the 33 men, including De Long, perished.

Relying on the diaries, letters, and reports of the expedition and subsequent investigation, Guttridge weaves a fascinating narrative. He carefully retraces the experiences of the men, bringing them to life in the words they left behind. Some aspects of the tragedy were suppressed for a century; Guttridge assesses them objectively and compassionately. The book is highly recommended as a most readable account of an unfortunate tragedy. Hindsight offers so many alternatives to have avoided the *Jeannette's* errors as to make us wary of the options we hold for our own futures, a lesson worth noting.

Abraham Hoffman

Bold, Christine. SELLING THE WILD WEST: *Popular Western Fiction, 1860-1960.* Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1987. 215 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Cloth, $27.50

Bold has little original to say in her long-winded exploration of the hidden dynamics and tensions inherent to the Western genre.

An English professor at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Bold finds slight satisfaction in the Western story itself. Instead, she states, "the real drama" amounts to a tug-of-war between publishers who wanted uniformity and authors who would "subvert the formulaic outlines forced upon them and assert themselves through their narratives."

Bold supplies an abundance of material dealing with the early "dime novels," but do we really need another rehash of the legacy of the "Leatherstocking Tales?" Everyone from Mark Twain to Henry Nash Smith has pounced upon poor James Fenimore Cooper. Now, here is Bold, uncovering all that has been covered by her predecessors.

Focusing on selected writers from a century of Western fiction, Bold seems determined to trash the genre. She presents the prolific Max Brand (Frederick Faust) as simply a near-psychotic who loathed himself for compromising with a loathsome industry. Other Bold insights: she dismisses Louis L'Amour as a pure huckster with no concern for literature, describes Ernest Haycox as a vacillating wimp who chafed at editorial restrictions yet opted for financial security and finally, as anticipated, with myopic certainty she declares that the Western is dead. Throughout the book, Bold continues in such fashion with hardly an instance of wit or humor.

Jeff Nathan

Koenig, George. DEATH VALLEY TAILINGS: *Rarely Told Tales of Old Death Valley.* Morongo Valley: Sagebrush Press for the Death Valley '49ers, Inc., 1986. 125 pp. Map, illustrations, bibliography, index. Cloth, $17.95; paper, $7.95. Available from Sagebrush Press, P.O. Box 87, Morongo Valley, CA 92256.

To many, Death Valley suggests the eternal mystery spot of the Old West. A geologic wonder filled with canyons, wierd landscapes and trails which seemingly lead nowhere. It is a cauldron of history and folk-tales which have been orchestrated and rearranged many times since the days of the '49ers.

Some of the stories are well-known — many are not. Like those blind canyons and trails of the landform, some tales are seemingly without beginning or end, but in sum, give us the textural color of this great place.

In this book, Death Valley historian George Koenig has added significantly to the many stories which have emerged over the years about this other-worldly landmark. His latest effort is a detailing of many of the fascinating footnotes and "side trails" which he discovered while researching and writing about the primary events of the valley.

This is not a book for the beginner on the subject. First, try the other classics by Koenig, Manly, Belden, Walker, et al. But afterwards, the fascination and the questions will continue. Koenig has done an admirable job in helping us explore those narrow and unseen defiles. He tells us of those who followed the original parties. From the "Skeletons in the Sand" through the "lost mine" seekers; the surveyors and adventurers, we travel through the wastelands and mysteries of time. Some questions are answered — some are not. Our interest and our curiosity always remain alert.

This short volume is well written, eminently readable and a valuable addition for any Death Valley afficianado. Koenig has also included a few illustrative photographs and a valuable list of recommended reading. You will find this a fine supplement to your other Death Valley books.

Jerry Selmer