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Joseph R. Walker

by Robert Stragnell, M.D.

Joseph Walker, the subject of this presentation, was the quintessence frontiersman of the nineteenth century. My interest in his life began on October 16, 1963 at which time I was privileged to be a part of an assemblage that dedicated a plaque at the summit of California State Highway 178. The inscription read:

Dedicated to the memory of Joseph
Reddeford Walker who discovered this
pass in 1834.

The group responsible for this dedication were members of a fraternal order, E Clampus Vitus, who's background is almost lost in antiquity. Historic research has determined that it had its origin in 4005 B.C. Further details of this

organization may be found in *Adam Was a Clamper*, by Don Louis Perceval.

We spent the evening before the dedication swapping stories, discussing history, lying to each other, engulfing copious quantities of Taos Lightning and being outdoors! Ardis Manly Walker, a grandnephew of Joseph Walker, entertained us with many extravagant tales about his "Uncle Joe." He wrote the introduction to the recent reprint of Douglas S. Watson's book, *West Wind*, published by Sagebrush Press. Authored by Percy H. Booth, this was the first serious attempt at a careful biography of Joseph Walker. It was originally privately printed in an edition of only 100 copies and the reprint provides a

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became Reddeford. This opinion is gaining wider acceptance as noted in the recent Smithsonian Institution publication *Exploring the West*, the index listing, Joseph Rutherford Walker!

Little is known of Walker's childhood. Certainly living on the frontier he acquired an early knowledge of the land by herding animals in the rough countryside. His people raised and traded horses, hogs and cattle. There were also gun-makers in the family so an early familiarity with these necessary implements of frontier survival was acquired. As mentioned earlier the Indian menace was not contained until 1814 when Andrew Jackson defeated the Creek Indians at the battle of Horseshoe Bend on the Tallaposa River. Both Joel and Joseph Walker, although in their teens, participated in this battle. Joel Walker continued in Jackson's service and it is possible that Joseph Walker also fought against the Seminoles in Florida.

In 1819 a large part of the Walker clan migrated to Missouri. Joe and Joel were the leaders. They were accompanied by their sister Jane, who had married Abraham McClellan, and their younger brother Big John, as well as various cousins and a number of children. They left Tennessee in September and reached St. Louis in October. They then went west, beyond Boonlick County, to the Fort Osage vicinity, where George Sibley was the Indian Agent. Here they established a small farm and at this time they were probably among the most westerly permanent settlers in the United States.

The spirit of adventure and exploration continued in the Walker family. By 1820 Joel had left for Texas and his year in this area is well described in his book, *A Pioneer of Pioneers*. Joe joined with a group of trappers and traveled to New Mexico. Here, it is rumored, he was arrested and imprisoned for a time only to be released to assist in either the rescue of a Governor's daughter who had been captured by raiding Comanches, much like James Ohio Pattie, or, as Washington Irving indicates, "He engaged with Spaniards and Sioux Indians in a war against the Pawnees." There is no verification of either of these stories, however, it is presumed that he became one of the Taos Trappers and was an illegal alien from the Mexican viewpoint.

Thomas Hart Benton was anxious to develop trade relations with Santa Fe during the 1820's. He engineered the passage of a bill authorizing

the marking of a road from the Missouri frontier to the boundary of Mexico. James Monroe signed this bill, just before leaving the White House, and \$10,000 was appropriated for surveying and marking the road and \$20,000 for a right-of-way from the Indians. The commissioners for this undertaking were George Sibley, who had been the Indian Agent at Fort Osage, Benjamin Reeves and Thomas Mather. Sibley's journal and diary reveal that Joseph Walker was the hunter and chainman for this expedition and that his brothers Joel and John also participated in the surveying of this Highway between Nations.

When the survey was concluded the Walkers returned to Missouri and participated in the incorporation of Jackson County and the creation of Independence, Missouri. Joseph Walker was elected the first Sheriff of Jackson County and as sheriff of this rambunctious county Walker did well. He was easily reelected and was described as, "never a braggart, soft spoken, yet capable of maintaining discipline." Descriptions of Walker indicate that he was a large and powerful man, being reported to be over six feet in height and weighing 200 pounds.

Joel Walker married Mary Young and he and his brother-in-law, Abraham McClellan, developed a number of successful business enterprises in Independence, a town which became the jumping off place for Santa Fe. Later it was the first boomtown of the west as it evolved into the staging area for the overland migrations to Oregon and California.

By 1830 Joseph Walker lost interest in serving as the Sheriff of Jackson County, Missouri and became a cattle, horse and mule trader. While thus engaged he visited Fort Gibson, on the Arkansas River, where he met Captain Benjamin Louis Eulalie de Bonneville. This meeting could not have been more fortuitous. Bonneville wanted to find a way to enter the lucrative fur trade and Walker wanted to explore the Rockies. Bonneville and Walker formed a partnership which later included Michael Cerré, a trader with considerable experience in the business end of the fur trade. In addition it has been speculated that the potential of covert exploration into Mexican Territory stimulated the relationship that developed between Bonneville and Walker.

Joseph Walker quickly earned the title of Captain Walker as the leader of a group of trappers who searched the many streams and

actors. How many can claim to have been shot in the back by Errol Flynn? Iron Eyes was accidentally shot at close range with a blank pistol while making the film, *They Died With Their Boots On* in 1941. Iron Eyes did not die, and kept his boots on!

Over the years he has met with many of the "famous" around the world. The various Pope's, presidents, kings and queens. He has received more plaques, scrolls, keys to the city, etc., than any other Westerner.

In the late 1940's, Iron Eyes began to sandwich in television along with his movie career. I well remember the *Tim McCoy and Iron Eyes Cody Show* which appeared on KTLA in the days of black and white. When McCoy got too busy to continue with the show, Iron Eyes and Birdie filled in with their own TV show, telling the kids about Indian legends, dances, and how to make Indian crafts. The show was called *Iron Eyes Adventure*. When not busy, he has turned out any number of paperbacks on the legend and lore of Indians. The most popular of his books is the one on Indian sign language which can be found in most stores selling paperbacks.

Once television took hold as the prime source of home entertainment, Iron Eyes and Birdie were often called upon to make many guest appearances on shows like *Marcus Welby, M.D.*, *Fantasy Island*, and the *Danny Thomas Show*. Without question Iron Eyes received a great deal of exposure as TV grew. He has also been seen worldwide for many years, riding in the Rose Parade.

This 140 page production is the true story about the life and times of Iron Eyes Cody. Within these pages is a wealth of nostalgia, a complete list of films he has appeared in, and well over 150 photographs of his family, famous people he has met, and scenes from various films. Any Westerner who has known Iron Eyes over the years, will find this a most interesting and cherished addition to his or her western library.

There is a more popularized book about Iron Eyes, entitled *Iron Eyes: My Life as a Hollywood Indian* by Iron Eyes Cody, as told to Collin Perry, and published by Everest House in 1982. While the text and illustrations in this book are nicely done, the facts and situations have been overglamorized in order to build up the story line.

If you just want the straight stuff, the way it happened, and how it was, not how a thousand

"Blue Coats" chased Iron Eyes down Hollywood Boulevard, this current book is for you. The story will carry you from those days at Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, where he was born on April 3, 1912, the son of Thomas Longplume and Frances Salpit Cody, to present time. Without question, any Westerner will enjoy this book about the life of a great American, who was a pioneer member of the Los Angeles Corral of Westerners, and has been a valued friend to all of us for so many years.

Donald Duke

LETTERS FROM THE SOUTHWEST, by Charles Lummis, edited by James W. Byrkit. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1989. 309 pp., maps, illustrations, bibliography, index. Cloth, \$29.95.

The University of Arizona Press deserves praise and heartfelt thanks for their excellent reprints of western Americana. This edition is excellent, and should be in any and all collections of Americana and Californiana. Lummis, always an interesting and controversial person, wrote a series of letters in 1884 to the *Chillicothe Leader* in Ohio, describing his journey from there to California. There are twenty-four letters, beginning September 15, 1884, in Nebraska, Indiana and concluding on March 1, 1885 in Los Angeles, California. Lummis comments thoroughly on the geography, climate, animals and people which he encountered along the way. He particularly praises the excellent climate of the Cucamonga-San Gabriel-Los Angeles area. His descriptions are very good, colorful and on occasion, exaggerated.

For all of the controversy surrounding Charles Lummis, his books are good and certainly should be in any library or personal collections built on Southern California and/or the Southwest. This book is also a bargain, considering the current trend of University Press books. We hope that the University of Arizona will continue to reprint material such as this.

John S. Ferguson, Jr.

Corral Chips (continued) . . .

and *Powell Greenland*, both members of the SCHS board of directors. *Frank "Tired Eyes" Newton* was seen snapping pictures, while Deputy Sheriff *Sig Demke*, and Associate *Dave Gillies* look on.

"His dress was a marvel of adaptation to his business, while it was simple, it was of dressed buckskin throughout. A loose fitting coat and pants, richly ornamented with needle-work of silk, trimmed with fur, moccasins that showed all the skill that savage art could muster; California leggings, fastened below the knee and ornamented with thread work of silver and gold wire done by hand, in figures of lilies and a broad sombrero to keep off the sun. Mounted on a noble looking roan horse of Spanish blood, on a Mexican saddle, with spurs whose rowels were six inches in diameter of polished steel, plated with gold at his heels, he was, with his rifle across his saddle bow, as perfect a prince in bearing as I have ever seen. He seems born to rule the wild spirits around him without effort and they at once acknowledged their leader without discontent or controversy."

While living with the Indians Walker explored the Great Basin, the regions of the Snake and Columbia rivers and parts of what is now Northern Arizona. It was here that one of his men, Jack Ralston, reported finding some yellow rocks which he could not identify, but more of this later. During several winters Walker and his wife are reported to have stayed in Independence, Missouri, to escape the terribly harsh weather of the mountains.

In 1840 Joel Walker migrated from Independence to Oregon. His wife was pregnant and their child, Joseph Walker's niece, Louise Walker, is reported to be the first white child born in Oregon. Joel never seemed satisfied to stay long in one spot and they moved again, this time to Sacramento, California, where he went to work for John Sutter. According to Bancroft they were the first Anglo family to establish residence in California.

As emigration expanded Joseph Walker was in demand as a guide. In 1843, following the route he pioneered ten years earlier, he led the Chiles party to California and entered California by Walker Pass. It was said at this time that to make an overland trip, "A man must be able to endure heat like a salamander, mud and water like a muskrat, dust like a toad and labor like a jackass."

The year 1841 separated two eras of Western Society. Prior to this year the area was dominated by the independent Indian Nations and the only whites were those associated with the fur trade.



All dressed in buckskin, and mounted on a noble looking roan horse of Spanish blood, Joseph R. Walker was ready for the trail.

After 1841 the trappers and traders were a small minority with greatly diminished influence. They were displaced by those involved with emigration. The gathering momentum of this movement of people to the West fulfilled Benton's concept of Manifest Destiny which began with his legislation leading to the survey of the trail from Independence to Santa Fe. It also benefited the future of his son-in-law, John Fremont.

Joseph Walker had several encounters with Fremont. The first occurred in 1844 while Walker was traveling near the location of present day Las Vegas, Nevada. He was aware that a party had passed shortly before him and that

valuable service to collectors and scholars interested in Walker and the historic period covered by his life.

At the time of his birth, December 13, 1798, Joseph Walker was the 254th direct lineal descendant of John and Katherine Walker, his great grandparents. They were born and raised in Scotland and were married in Wigton, Scotland, but shortly afterwards moved to Ulster, Ireland. They remained in Ulster until the mid 1720's at which time they emigrated to America. They first resided in Maryland but soon moved to Chester County, Pennsylvania. John and Katherine were desperately poor, as were many of the other Scotch-Irish immigrants of the time. In 1732, with a number of relatives, they established themselves in Appalachia on a small stream west of Lexington, Virginia, named Walker Creek. They, because of this location, and the number of people involved, were colloquially called, *The Creek Nation*.

As time passed these pioneers moved onward, even beyond the arbitrary line for settlement, established in 1763 by the last British Governor of Virginia, John Murray, Earl of Dunmore. They migrated into unconquered Indian Lands which were never fully subdued until 1814. Joseph Walker's birthplace was an island in this turbulent arena and as he grew up threats of Indian depredation still existed. Conflict between whites and Indians had been the lot of the Walker clan since their arrival in America and it is logical to think of Joe Walker as a third generation professional pioneer. Men raised on the frontier acquired an Indian-like relationship with their environment. This prepared many of them, including Walker, for the hardships of life on the desolate deserts and in the wild mountains.

These men represented a unique presence in the recent history of the English speaking people. Terms like *Pathfinder* or *Trailblazer* were used to describe these discrete tactical explorers of the frontier. However, Joseph Walker was different from most of the others. He did not brag and relate extravagant descriptions of his adventures. One author, Daniel Ellis Connor, who wrote *Joseph Reddeford Walker and the Arizona Adventure*, said, "We never knew him to relate any exploits of his carrier, though he must have had many. He was dignified, but courteous, talked but little and had little patience with coarse or obscene language." Bil Gilbert, the

author of, *Westering Man; the Life of Joseph Walker*, to which I am greatly indebted, described this difference as follows, "Walker was no more a typical frontiersman than Mark Twain was the typical journalist. He was engaged in the same line of work as many others, but he was exceptional for his consistent pattern of decent, principled behavior which only men of great strength and self-confidence can sustain. All available accounts suggest that people of the time, who had some direct knowledge of the circumstances, admired and were proud of Joe Walker, because he was a good — in the several senses of the word — example of what a Frontier Hero could and should be."

Joseph Walker's father, also Joseph Walker, was next to the youngest of the nine children of Samuel and Jane Patterson Walker. He left the home of his parents and moved to Goochland County, Virginia, where he met and married Susan Willis in 1787. For the first ten years of their marriage he traveled between their home in Virginia and land that he was developing 50 miles west of Knoxville, Tennessee. Their first three children, Lucy, Jane and Joel were born in Goochland County. They moved to Roane County, Tennessee in 1797 and one year later Joseph R. Walker was born. Subsequently John, Samuel and Susan joined the family. All the Walker children achieved adulthood which was unusual in this era.

At this point it seems appropriate to discuss an issue which has minor historic importance. What was Joseph Walker's middle name? In the Archives of Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott, Arizona, there are a number of letters between the librarian, Dora Heap, and another of Joseph Walker's grandnephews, Carol M. Walker of Sacramento, California. In these letters, starting in 1966, Carol Walker expressed his belief that Joseph Walker's middle name was not Reddeford but rather Rutherford, from his great-grandmother, Katherine Rutherford. Of interest are the facts that his passport and headstone have just the middle initial "R" and that at no time did Walker ever write his middle name. Bil Gilbert shares Carol Walker's opinion sighting the variations of pronunciation that could be produced by a Scotch, Irish, Virginia, Appalachia, Tennessee, Missouri accent. Gilbert points out that Rolla, Missouri, was originally supposed to be Raleigh and similarly Rutherford

still in demand as a guide and he led a prospecting group across the Sierra to explore the Mono and Walker Lake regions the year he moved to Martinez. Bodie and Esmeralda were established as a result of this exploration and over the next several years moderately prosperous mining districts evolved.

The Mojave Indians resented the intrusion of white men into their territory and became increasingly hostile. In 1858 Walker, while leading an expedition across the desert towards the Colorado, was attacked. He was forced to retreat and lost one man in the affair. It is believed that this was the only fatality to ever have occurred in a party led by him! Later in 1858 he guided Colonel William Hoffman to Fort Yuma and early in 1859 he led the Colonel up the Colorado to the region just above present day Needles where Fort Mojave was to be established. The quality of his guiding may be deduced from a newspaper interview with a member of this later expedition:

The old man [Walker] had been down the Colorado on one occasion twenty or more years prior . . . and had never been up it. Nevertheless he would make an accurate map each morning of the country to be marched over during the day, showing where the mountains approached the river, and where the valley widened; where the sloughs or tributaries made in, marking the halting place for the night, and giving a description of its appearance and extent. Furthermore he would say, "There is grass and wood in those mountains off there, with water flowing to the northward," or which ever way it went.

The final great adventure of this extraordinary man was the *Arizona Adventure* described by Daniel Ellis Connor. As has been mentioned earlier one of Walker's companions in 1837-38 was Jack Ralston. He reportedly discovered some yellow metallic lumps in a ravine above the Little Colorado River which he was unable to identify. Twenty years later, while Ralston was in Oregon, he saw gold nuggets and was convinced that that was what he had discovered in Arizona. George Lount, a Canadian, was intrigued by this statement and interviewed Ralston extensively. Although Ralston died shortly thereafter, Lount felt that he could locate the region from the description that he had received. He started out,

but was waylaid by Indians. As his party crossed the Mojave Desert several of his companions, including his brother, were killed and Lount had to retreat.

Despite this setback, George Lount remained taken with the vision of Ralston's description of the location where he had picked up the yellow metallic rocks. He sought out Captain Walker and persuaded him to be the leader of a party to try and find the site of Ralston's discovery. The original party consisted of seven miners, and Jeemes Walker's younger brother, Joe (Joseph Rutherford Walker later to be sheriff of Yavapai County). The expedition left the San Joaquin Valley by way of Walker Pass and on the east side of the pass met another group of prospectors which included John Miller and his sons Jacob and Samuel. The parties joined together, crossed the Mojave Desert and the Colorado River and then spent several unprofitable months prospecting in the region of the Little Colorado River. No gold was found!

The Civil War began April 13, 1861, and on August 1, 1861, Lieutenant Colonel John Baylor issued a proclamation establishing the portion of New Mexico below the 34th parallel to be a Confederate Territory with its capital in Mesilla (Jefferson Davis made this official on February 14, 1862). It is presumed that Walker did not wish to involve his party of prospectors in the conflict and as a modest gold strike had been reported near Pikes Peak, the bulk of his group went to Colorado for the winter. Samuel C. Miller, the youngest of the group, joined the New Mexican Volunteers, Company A, 3rd Regiment on November 11, 1861 in support of the Union.

The Confederate forces, under General Henry H. Sibley, were defeated at the battle of Glorieta Pass [Pigeon's Ranch] on March 28, 1862. A detachment of the California Column of General James Carleton, under Lieutenant James Barrett, who lost his life, defeated the Confederate forces at Picacho Pass near Tucson on April 15, 1862. Carleton ultimately reached Santa Fe and replaced R.S. Canby as the commander of the Union forces. There were no further Confederate intrusions into the New Mexico-Arizona Territory. It is provocative to note that Canby, the Union leader, and Sibley, the leader of the Confederate troops, were brothers-in-law!

Walker returned to New Mexico in the late summer of 1862. It was during this period that

tributaries of the Rocky Mountains for beaver. Frances Fuller Victor, in *River of the West*, states:

"The American Trapper was not bred to the business. Oftener than any other way he was some wild youth who, after an escapade in the society of his native place, sought safety from reproach or punishment in the wilderness. Or he was some disappointed man who, with feelings embittered towards his fellows, preferred the seclusion of the forest and mountain. Many were of a class disreputable everywhere, who gladly embraced a life not subject to social laws. A few were brave independent, and hardy spirits, who delighted in the hardships and wild adventures their calling made necessary." It is certain this later description fit Walker the best.

In January of 1832, Benjamin Bonneville obtained a passport for Walker to travel to California. It is presumed that neither he nor Walker wished to emulate Jedediah Smith's arrest and imprisonment when he visited California in 1826. On July 27, 1833, Joseph Walker left the Green River as captain of an expedition to explore and trap the region from the Rockies to California. His carefully picked troop included Levin Mitchell, Pauline Weaver, Bill Williams, George Nidever, Stephen Hall Meek, Bill Craig, Joe Meek and Zenas Leonard.

Altogether there were about 60 men in the party. The description of this exploration is the only firsthand, promptly reported event in Walker's life. Zenas Leonard kept a journal and in 1839, after parts had appeared in a series of newspaper articles, published a book entitled, *Narrative of the Adventures of Zenas Leonard*. It is interesting to compare some of Leonard's material with that developed by Washington Irving in *The Adventures of Captain Bonneville*. In Irving's book Walker is depicted as senselessly cruel, incompetent and disloyal. None of these characteristics are even vaguely suggested in Leonard's reporting from his firsthand observations!

Captain Walker's men were faced with many obstacles along their route. These included hostile Indians, lack of food and water for themselves and their animals as well as difficult terrain to traverse. They first followed the Bear River and then swung north of Great Salt Lake to the Humboldt. Walker referred to this as the Barren River, although it had been known as both Mary's and Ogden's River prior to his travel

along its course. Some years later Fremont rechristened it the Humboldt River. After many difficulties they passed the region of Carson Lake and followed what is now known as the Walker River up to the Mono Lake region where they headed west. They passed through deep, almost impassable, snow crossing the Sierra. The exact route that Walker followed across the mountains is not known. Linda Lee and Steve Spahn are exploring the subject and hope to publish their findings in 1989. On October 20, 1833, Walker and his family were the first whites to look into the unforgettable wonder of nature, beautiful Yosemite Valley. Finally, they escaped from the mountains and on November 13, 1833, they reached the Pacific Ocean, nearly four months after they had left Fort Bonneville on the Green River. Zenas Leonard noted in his journal, "Walker's chief delight is the exploration of the unknown."

The party spent the winter in California and in the spring explored southward through the central valley. They struck the Kern River and turned eastward discovering a most accessible pass across the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This was subsequently named in Walker's honor and is where we camped in 1963. After crossing through the pass the explorers tried to go directly east across the desert. Lack of water forced them back to the eastern boundary of the Sierra range where they followed the foothills north until they struck their original westward trail which took them back to their starting point. This exploration did not provide a significant return in furs, however, it did enable Benjamin Bonneville to prepare the best map of the area that had ever been made.

During the next trapping season Walker led his men to the Wind River area, which is in what is now Wyoming. Leonard accompanied him and provides many interesting notes on the Indians of this region. Following the Rendezvous of 1835, Walker dissolved his partnership with Captain Bonneville and for the next decade lived with the Snake Indians while he explored extensively. During this time he acquired a Snake "wife" who is seen in the famous painting by Alfred Jacob Miller following behind him on her horse. A description of Walker's appearance at about this time was published in 1884 by John R. McBride based upon his recollections of many years before:

1867 he no longer was able to continue his independent life and moved to the ranch his nephew Jeemes had developed where he lived until his death on October 27, 1876.

His headstone in Martinez Cemetery reads, "Capt. Joseph R. Walker. Born in Roan Co. Tenn. Emigrated to Mo. 1819; to New Mexico, 1820; Rocky Mountains, 1832; California, 1833; Camped at Yosemite Oct. 1833. Died Oct. 27, 1876; AE 77yrs, 10 ms, & 14 ds."

In the dream sequence of the ideological frontier, the man with the gun is the central figure and the central fact is that the West was taken at gun point. Very close to the center of this scene must be the burly figure of Joseph Walker, "The best man in the country. He didn't follow trails, he made 'em!" Walker the crust breaker, taking his existential delight in unknown regions for 50 years; the sheriff who did not kill or bully; host to trusting emigrants; man of the Snake; friend of the Moqui and honorable opponent of Mangus Coloradas. Standing on the last frontier, as virtually the last of the frontiersmen; restraining men hot to massacre, saying,

"Be easy, be easy, for the more you become acquainted with these savages, the more you will respect their demands. We will put off our rifle negotiations as long as possible."

Walker possessed the unique ability of being able to get people to cooperate for the common good and was a superb leader. Conner expressed the West's farewell to Joseph Walker saying, "This was the kindest man I ever knew; considering the desperate chances which he had constantly taken for thirty years among the savages, burning deserts and bleak snow of the Rocky Mountains. Brave, truthful, he was as kindly as a child, yet occasionally he was austere. I was but a boy and he kept me out of dangerous places without letting me know it or even how it was done."

Enduring tribute is paid to his memory through the places named in his honor, including: Walker Pass, Walker Lake, Walker River, Walker Trail, Walker Mining District, Walker Street and Walker, Arizona. Joseph Rutherford Walker, truly the prototype mountain man, explorer and leader of the early West.



Monthly Roundup (continued) . . .

diagnosed in 1875, so Ford went to California for his health. He made his home in Santa Barbara. Ford became fascinated with the landscape around Santa Barbara and did rural scenes as well as a number of paintings of the Santa Barbara Mission.

Ford was a practical businessman. He painted to order as to size and medium, so the quality of his work could vary with the price being paid for it. Several of Neuerburg's slides displayed the sumptuousness of Ford's studio and gallery. Besides his mission travels, Ford went to Yosemite and painted a number of scenes there.

Ford became involved in Santa Barbara Civic affairs, helped in founding the local natural history society, wrote articles, and went on scientific trips to the Channel Islands. He exhibited a 4½ x 9-foot California landscape at the Chicago Exhibition of 1876. His most noteworthy effort, however, began in 1880 with his paintings of the California missions. He copied from photographs and earlier paintings, and made copies of

his own work as well, doing them in oil, lithograph, and finally etchings, painting all 21 missions. His views offered an interpretation rather than a literal rendering, the scenes edited for maximum effect. Although many of Ford's paintings are lost or unavailable, Neuerburg said that the artist's work does show up at auctions and in galleries, and that Ford merits greater recognition than he has previously received.



they had left the trail and were heading into Ute Indian Country. He caught up with the party, which was Fremont's. Fremont was convinced that he was being followed by Indians and that Walker had fought his way through to rescue him. He said, "Only great knowledge of the country and great courage and presence of mind and good rifles could bring me safe from such a perilous enterprise." Walker intimated that this was an exaggeration and was quoted as saying, "Fremont, morally and physically was the most complete coward I ever knew!"

In 1845-46 he served as a guide with Fremont's third expedition and Walker is quoted as saying, "I would say he was as timid as a woman if it was not casting an unmerited reproach on the sex." These less than flattering comments are in sharp contrast to the opinions expressed by Kit Carson who, in his autobiography said, "I find it impossible to describe the hardships through which we passed, nor am I capable of doing justice to the credit which he [Fremont] deserves. . . I can never forget his treatment of me while I was in his employ, and how cheerfully he suffered with his men when undergoing the severest of hardships. His perseverance and his willingness to participate in all that was undertaken, no matter whether the duty was rough or easy, are the main causes of his success; and I say, without fear of contradiction, that no one but he could have surmounted so many obstacles, and have succeeded in as many difficult services."

Joseph Walker returned to Independence in late 1846 or early 1847. He was alone and seemed withdrawn. Gilbert speculates that Walker may have lost his Indian wife and was severely depressed. It was at this time he stated that he would rather live with the Indians because he found white people, "Too damned mean!" By the fall of 1847, his spirits had improved and he returned to the trail accompanied by his brother Samuel's son, James, known as Jeemes. They wintered on the Green River, in the region of Henry's Fork and stayed in the mountains until the end of July. This was Walker's last visit to the Rockies. When he left he guided a party to California which included his nephew, Mike McClellan.

With the start of the Gold Rush the Walkers formed a loose collective consisting of Walker, his brother Joel and Joel's son John and his nephews Frank and Mike McClellan and Jeemes

Walker. No opportunity was overlooked. They supplied horses and mules to the diggings, traded mine leases, started the first hotel in Sacramento and gradually acquired respectable land holdings. Joe Walker met John Gilroy, the first Anglo settler in California, in 1834 and they became close friends. Because of its central location it was logical that he establish his headquarters at Gilroy. Horses and mules were obtained by trade or purchase in Southern California, then transported and held at Gilroy until they were needed at the mines. Today Gilroy is known as the Garlic Capital of the World!

By 1851 Joe Walker had had his fill of horse trading and once more went out searching the unknown. He led a party out of California through Walker Pass and across the Mojave Desert south of Death Valley. Just below the mouth of the Virgin River they swam the Colorado River and then went across the future state of Arizona between the Grand Canyon and the Mogollon Rim. Near present day Flagstaff they saw Sunset Crater and the Indian ruins of Wupatki. Walker had heard of the Moqui, our present day Hopi, but had never visited their mesas. He expressed the opinion that they were more advanced than any other Indians he had encountered. The party traveled through Navajo and Zuni Territory until they crossed the Rio Grande at Albuquerque. In general this was the first exploration of the route which followed the 35th parallel and was later explored by Sitgreaves, surveyed by Whipple and followed by Beale and his camels. His return to Los Angeles was reported in the *Star*, "Captain Joe Walker, the renowned mountaineer, has arrived from New Mexico with a company of twelve men."

Walker was considered a very knowledgeable explorer and his opinion was often sought over the next decade. Of particular interest was his testimony before the Senate Committee on Public Lands on March 24, 1853. The record of his opinions, relative to the practicability of a railroad from San Francisco to the eastern United States, have been reviewed in detail by Walt Wheelock and Pat Adler in their 1965 book, *Walker's Railroad Routes — 1853*.

By 1855, as he was no longer involved in horse trading, he moved from Gilroy to the Martinez area where, over the years, his nephew Jeemes had developed a 1,500 acre ranch on the north-western slope of Mount Diablo. Joe Walker was

A weekly Pasadena paper has called CM *Jirayr Zorthian* "King of the Hill." Loretta Keller in her article states that she followed the road above North Lake to Zorthianland. Here, its ruler, artist Jirayr Zorthian, appeared with his great dane "Orozco" and a toilet trained pig "Blanche" who barks like a dog. A guided tour was made of the estate and he explained, "You may think this is junk," while circling his cane around broken bicycles, dolls, railroad ties, and blocks of broken cement, but "It isn't junk — it's the stuff of Art." Inside the house, which he calls the cellar, the writer was shown his wonderful collection of art, and his own art work. He went on to tell the writer that, "The artist has become the court jester of the idle ranch. The gallery owners take 50 percent of the profit and their buyers treat the artist like dirt." As the writer was about to leave the "King of the Hill," he said, "Would you like to know the secret of my success?" "Yes," the writer replied. Zorthian stated, "Do what you want to do, and let the others beat a path to your door." With that, "Blanche" the pig and "Orozco" the Great Dane barked a farewell from Zorthianland.

The California Mission Studies Association held their annual conference at San Juan Bautista in February of this year. *Norman Neuerburg* presented a paper on "Restoration of the Altarpiece at Mission San Gabriel." Corral Members *Walt Wheelock* and CM *Lou Bourdet* were in attendance.

Frank Quitterfield Newton, Jr. (aka Tired Eyes Newton) attended the 50th anniversary of his high school reunion in March of this year. One would suspect he went around flashing his camera as he does at Westerner meetings for a "Then and Now" comparison of his old school chums. He was raised in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, a Chicago suburb, which had been founded by an ancestor 150 years earlier as Newton's Station. The big question is who was "Ellyn?" Frank, our crusty Daguerrotype Wrangler, is an authority on photography, beer, and attempting to focus "Old Joe" in his eyepiece following two glasses of wine. He has spent the last several years collecting old enamel signs, researching postal history, looking for data on treasure handling, and stagecoaching in the American West.

Deputy Sheriff *Siegfried Demke* completed his civic duty as juror at the Pasadena Division-Superior Court during a portion of November

and December. Noticing that the rope on the "Hanging Tree" in the courtyard was crumbling, Demke had it replaced by a nice new manila rope. Attorneys watching the ceremony of replacing the rope saw to it that he was challenged as juror in nearly every case. Consequently, Demke spent most of his time reading about the American West in the juror lounge. The only case he sat on as juror was one of a teenage youth who had placed pennies on the Santa Fe tracks in hopes of derailing a freight train.

Lawrence Clark Powell, a visitor to the Los Angeles Corral in years gone by, has written a foreword to the University of Arizona's reprint of Charles F. Lummis' *Some Strange Corners of Our Country*. The original edition was published in 1891, and according to *Ray Wood* this is a lithographic reproduction with all the original engravings. The volume covers such places as Grand Canyon, Montezuma's Castle, El Morro rock, as well as descriptions of Indian snake dances, and aspects of Southwest Indian life.

Jack McCaskill was scheduled to show his famous Southern California post card collection to the Huntington Corral on November 18th in conjunction with a slide talk by Sandy Snyder entitled "The Postcard History of Los Angeles." For some unknown reason the program was cut.

In August of this year Ray Wood visited his 50th state—Alaska. He has also visited or lived in every one of the counties of California. He has visited every country of Western Europe save the Scandinavian countries, and nearly half of the states of Mexico and the provinces of Canada. Can any Corral member top this?

Several Los Angeles Corral members were among those honored by the Historical Society of Southern California, at its traditional Christmas "open house" held on December 3rd. Corral honorees, for books published within the last three years were, *Norman Neuerburg* for his book *Henry Chapman Ford*; *Don Pflueger* for his history of *California State Polytechnic University-Pomona*; *John Robinson* for his *The San Bernardino's*; *Ray Wood* for *The Saints of the California Landscape*, and also to CM *Midge Sherwood* for volume two of her classic *Days of Vintage, Years of Vision*. *Tom Andrews*, a Corral Member and the executive director of the Southern California Historical Society, managed the award ceremony. Watching from the sideline were *Bill Escherich*

(Continued from Page Fifteen)

Daniel Ellis Conner sought out the gold seekers. He had been a part of a group supporting the Confederate cause and was on the run from the Union forces when he joined Walker and his men. His story, although at times difficult to follow as to time and place, gives a valuable insight into the way in which Walker organized and controlled his men. In particular how he tried to train the younger and less experienced men in the details of survival on a hostile frontier. They went through Ratan Pass to Santa Fe and then down the Rio Grande to Albuquerque and Fort Craig. Walker was anxious to cross the continental divide but his way was blocked by the leader of the Mimbrenos Apache Tribe, Mangas Coloradas and his warriors. Intermittent skirmishes occurred between the Indians and Walker's men with the Indians trying to ambush the party and Walker trying to sneak through. After three months of this Walker found himself at Fort McLane, which is in the vicinity of present day Silver City, New Mexico. He learned that the Indians were in winter quarters about 25 miles north of Pinos Altos. He sent a small detachment of men to try to take Mangas as a hostage and in some way, this was accomplished. This foray was led by Jack Swilling who had joined the party after escaping the Union forces at Picacho Pass. Connor describes this event in some detail and relates the ultimate assassination of Mangas and destruction of his followers by Colonel John West of Carleton's forces.

With this impediment to his progress eliminated, the Walker Party crossed the Burro Mountains, northeast of present day Lordsburg, and by April 1863 they were in Tucson. They stayed here only a few days before proceeding northwest. As they traveled Walker bartered with the agricultural Pima Indians for provisions and after being adequately supplied they proceeded in the general direction of present day Wickenburg where they ascended the course of the Hassayampa River. It is fascinating that the *Weekly Arizonian*, on January 26, 1860, reported exploration in this general area by Captain John W. Swilling, when he was attached to the Gila Rangers. This is the same man who facilitated the capture of Mangas Coloradas and, some authorities believe, knew there was gold in the area and influenced Captain Walker in his ascension of the Hassayampa River. Traces of gold were found in the small streams feeding the

river and a permanent camp was established. Near the junction of the Hassayampa headwaters and those of Lynx Creek, Samuel Miller, who had rejoined the party after his discharge from the Union forces in New Mexico, made a major discovery of gold and the Walker Mining District came into being on May 10, 1863.

For some time Charles D. Posten who, with General Samuel P. Heintzelman, had developed valuable mining properties in Southern Arizona, after the Gadsden Purchase, had lobbied for separate territorial status for Arizona. His efforts were successful and Abraham Lincoln signed the bill separating Arizona and New Mexico and granting territorial status to Arizona on February 24, 1863. The initial territorial bill had included the establishment of Tucson as the Territorial Capital, but this was deleted and it was left to the Governor, John N. Goodwin, to determine its location. The development of the Walker Mining District stimulated the settling of the region. Because the Indians were hostile the establishment of a military installation was ordered and headquarters for this were located by Major Edward B. Willis on December 10, 1863, at Del Rio Springs, in present day Chino Valley. The site was named Fort Whipple in honor of Amiel Weeks Whipple who had surveyed the 35th parallel railroad route in 1853-54. On December 29, 1863, just inside the Arizona border at Navajo Springs, Governor Goodwin announced that the initial Territorial Capital would be at Fort Whipple. The location chosen by Willis was remote from the Mining District and early concentration of settlers, accordingly, in May of 1864 the military camp and seat of government were moved to the Granite Creek area. The plan of the city, named Prescott by Secretary of State McCormick, was laid out by Robert Groom. The North-South streets were named for individuals described in Prescott's *Conquest of Mexico* and the East-West streets named for western explorers and locally important citizens.

During the fall and winter of 1863-64 Joseph Walker stayed in the mining area. His eye sight was failing and advancing years were slowing him down. He made intermittent visits to the mines over the next three years and saw the town of Prescott grow. He is quoted as saying, "We opened the door and held it open to civilization and now civilization will do the rest." In

Abraham Henson Meadows was born during a snowstorm in Visalia, California, on March 10, 1860. While quite young he and his family migrated to the Tonto Basin in Arizona where they met with a tragic Indian raid in which he lost his father and brother. Charlie became a cowboy and developed into an expert with a reata, six-gun and rifle. His notoriety increased during rodeo competitions in Arizona and Colorado and in 1890 he joined the Worth Wild West Show and traveled through Australia and the Orient. In 1892 he joined Buffalo Bill's "Wild West Show and Congress of Rough Riders." All the cowboy riders in the circus had stage names and Charlie became "Arizona Charlie." After traveling through Europe, Charlie wanted a show of his own so he organized an outfit of cowboys and Indians and traveled throughout the United States. The venture was profitable. The excitement of the Alaskan Gold Rush in 1896 drew him to the Yukon and in Dawson he built a hotel and opera house. The operation was profitable until the gold fields failed to pan out. Charlie returned to the States, but his opera house still stands. He always declared that he was born in a snowstorm and would die in one. To be on the safe side, he settled in Yuma, Arizona where snowstorms were extremely rare. For thirty years Yuma was his home until his death on December 9, 1932 when a surprise snowstorm covered the desert town.

Charlie was a born showman. Everything he did or said was tinged with the dramatic. His importance in history rests on the fact that he spread the flavor and color of the Old West to the rest of the world. Jean King, Charlie's great grandniece, devoted years to careful research before writing *Arizona Charlie*. She says, "Neither Saint nor Sinner, Charlie left his mark across the land in a multitude of court cases, diaries, family archives, newspaper headlines, articles, pictures, and a treasured scrapbook. My intention is to correct misconceptions and inaccuracies about his life, a story I had to tell before it was lost in the dust of time."

Her book of 356 pages is eight and one-half by eleven inches in size, has a colorful dust jacket, and is packed with facts and pictures that sparkle with showmanship. Its only flaw is the poor design inflicted by the publisher. The book has a real place in Southwest Americana and is available in most bookstores dealing in Western

publications.

Don M.



Cody, Iron Eyes and Marietta Thompson. *IRON EYES CODY: The Proud American*. Madison, S.C.: Empire Publishing Co., 1989. Available from Empire Publishing Co., Route 3, Box 83, Madison, South Carolina 27025.

Iron Eyes Cody is recognized by millions of people around the world as the American Indian who cried a single tear in the poster for the "Keep America Beautiful" campaign. He was pictured in television spots, in newspapers, in magazines, etc., throughout the world. Iron Eyes is also a most famous Indian movie actor, whose movie career spans from 1919 to current date. He is one of the busiest actors in Hollywood.

Thomas Longplume Cody, Iron Eyes' father, was a silent screen actor, and it was only natural that one of his sons would follow in his moccasins. In fact, the three Cody brothers, Iron Eyes, Silvermoon, and Red Star, were regulars on the silver screen in the early years of sound films. From the age of three, Iron Eyes, then called Oscar "Little Eagle," was able to recite the famous "Great Spirit Prayer."

Birdie, his most attractive wife, was noticed while making *The Scarlet Letter* in 1926. It did not take long for Iron Eyes to carry Birdie into his tepee. Old-time Westerners will remember Birdie best as the lady who worked so hard to make the various "Fandangos" a success when they were held at the old Casa Adobe below the Southwest Museum. Quite often their two sons, Robert and Arthur, would be at these functions. I was not aware that Birdie had worked for many years at the Southwest Museum, performing various tasks. She was an assistant in Archaeology at the time of her death.

As a character actor, Iron Eyes is kept very busy. In fact, it appears that most character actors work more often than the famous stars like Cary Grant, etc. In half a century, Iron Eyes has appeared in more than 200 films, mostly as an Indian Chief, however, there have been times when he played straight roles. He has performed along with the best of them, such as John Wayne, Ben Johnson, and Errol Flynn. He has worked for the great director, Cecil B. DeMille, who considered Iron Eyes as one of the best character



Corral Chips

Heinz-Joseph Stammell, co-founder of the West German Corral of Westerners, and contributor to our Brand Book No. 12, died August 25, 1989, in the Black Forest village of Alpirsbach. He was an award winning historical writer and author of over 200 books, fact and fiction, on the American West.

Katherine Ainsworth, Western historian and a longtime member of the Los Angeles Corral, died September 7, 1989. Katy helped her husband, Ed Ainsworth, also a former member of the Corral, with the research and production of his works. She was a highly regarded author in her own right. Among her many volumes was *The McCallum Sage*, about a pioneer Palm Springs family, another titled *The Man who Captured Sunshine*, a biography of John W. Hilton who has often been referred to as the "Dean of American Desert Painters." Her *In the Shade of the Juniper Tree* is the life story of Father Junipero Serra.

On Sunday, November 12th, CM Midge Sherwood in a talk before the Southern California Historical Society, described a little-known side of railroad developer Collis Huntington entitled "Uncle Collis and the Press."

An award for excellence in the writing of local Southern California history was established by the Southern California Historical Society. The first award will be made in 1990. One of the attributes of this award is that it will be named in honor of *Donald Pflueger* who wrote his first local history as an undergraduate at Pomona College in 1949. Entitled *Glendora: The Annals of a Southern California Community*, it was published in book form in 1951. At the time of publication the history was widely acclaimed and is now a collector's item. Don, emeritus



Donald Pflueger (left) is presented an "Award of Merit" by Executive Director Thomas F. Andrews of the Southern California Historical Society. The award is for his contribution to the writing of local history.

professor of history at California State Polytechnic University (Pomona) wrote *Covina: Sunflowers, Citrus, Subdivisions* a decade later. His other books include a textbook on California government and a biography of Charles C. Chapman, a pioneer citrus grower for whom Chapman College is named. He has spoken to the Corral any number of times, and is a constant contributor to the *Branding Iron*.

The Glendora Historical Society honored Pflueger on December 2, 1989, for his many contributions to the City of Glendora. Don grew up in Glendora on the Pflueger Citrus Ranch. Many of the treasured items relating to the citrus industry in the San Gabriel Valley are from the Pflueger collection. At the presentation, where Don was awarded a beautiful plaque, there were Glendora Historical Society members and several of his old friends from the Los Angeles Corral present. This museum is located in an old firehouse at 314 North Glendora Avenue, and worthy of your attention for its many treasures. The hours the museum is open is not known, so give a call to (818) 963-0419.

The Branding Iron

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Los Angeles Corral



THE MONTHLY ROUNDUP

by Abraham Hoffman

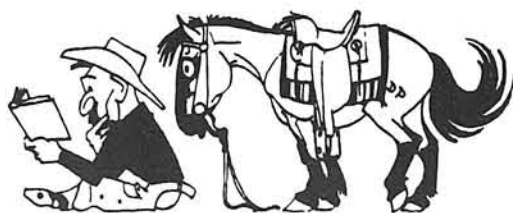


NOVEMBER 1989 MEETING

Corral Member Norman Neuerburg presented an illustrated slide lecture on Henry Chapman Ford, 19th century artist who painted the California missions. Besides his art work, Ford wrote a 500-page manuscript on the California missions, eventually purchased by Neuerburg. With little knowledge available on Ford's life, Neuerburg gathered information about him for the introduction to the manuscript *The Mission Era of California*, soon to be published.

Born in 1828 in New York, Ford received training as an artist in Europe, influenced by the Barbizon school of artistic thought prominent in the 1850's. Invalided out of the Union Army during the Civil War, Ford went to Chicago in 1862 and established himself as a full-time artist. In 1865 he married, and the following year made his first trip West, to the Rocky Mountains. The Great Fire of 1871 destroyed his Chicago studio and most of his early work. Tuberculosis was

(Continued from Page Ten)



DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL ...

Beck, Warren A. and Ynez D. Haase. *HISTORICAL ATLAS OF THE AMERICAN WEST*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1989. Pp. 192, 78 maps, appendix, references, index. Cloth, \$29.95.

Corral member Warren A. Beck has produced another winner in his atlas series featuring interesting material about western topics. His *New Mexico: A History of Four Centuries* started it all the way back in 1962. Then for 23 intervening years Beck seemed to have faded into the setting sun. All that time he was busy gathering facts, figures, and data. In the period of one year he completed *Historical Atlas of California* and *Historical Atlas of New Mexico* (1985). If this was not an awakening and a dream come true for Westerners, this year he has taken on the "Mother Lode," the entire American West with his *Historical Atlas of the American West*, jointly compiled with the aid of Ynez D. Haase. Those who appreciate quick facts in capsule form, here is just the book for you.

Webster's Third International Dictionary states that an atlas is a bound collection of tables, charts, maps, plates, and illustrations on any subject. The *Historical Atlas of the American West* is all of these things and a bit more. Information is blended together in logical and interesting form. Warren A. Beck and Ynez D. Haase also qualify under the other Webster meaning of the world atlas. The other use of the word states it is "One who bears a heavy burden." The authors are not bodybuilders trying to carry the West on their shoulders, but they both shared a large burden to produce this bell ringer book.

This atlas presents the history of the West from prehistoric time up to the present. Covered are the physical characteristics of the West — its natural resources and geographical features,

climate, mineral sources, stagecoach routes, railroads, impact of natural disasters, etc. You can even learn the territory where the buffalo roamed. I always thought there were buffalo in California — I saw some on Catalina Island! Iron Eyes Cody states those are just movie buffalo and not native to the island. They had passage aboard the S.S. *Catalina* years ago for a movie and the herd has grown.

Historical Atlas of the American West has finally defined for me just what the American West takes in. Beck and Haase define the American West as the 17 contiguous states from the one-hundredth meridian westward which takes in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, California, Oregon and Washington. All the major explorations and overland movements are presented, as well as cattle trails, what the Spanish and Mexicans controlled, and early ranchos. Not forgotten are the important military events, where the forts and bases were or are located, Indian wars and what tribe controlled what part of the West. If you want to know where they grow grapes, pecans, walnuts, or where chickens and turkeys grow best, just look it up in the *Historical Atlas of the American West*. It is far more interesting than the Farmer's Almanac, but also more expensive. Beck and Haase won't tell you their favorite recipe or when it will rain next, but for a Westerner this is a better choice and a must for all who do historic research. I checked, the authors even have all their railroad information right. That's important.

Donald Duke



ARIZONA CHARLIE by Jean King. Phoenix, Arizona: Heritage Publishers, 1989. Available from Heritage Publishers, 4633 North 30th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85016. \$29.95

Old-time members of the Los Angeles Corral may remember the story "The Genesis of Arizona Charlie" that appeared in *Brand Book Number 7*. Now Jean King has expanded the story in a hardback book *Arizona Charlie* that carries the life of the magnificent buckaroo from beginning to end.



Iron Eyes Cody - "Walk of Fame"

by Msgr. Francis J. Weber

Nothing so personifies Hollywood as the "Walk of Fame" and the luminaries honored for their accomplishments in the entertainment capital of the world. At almost every hour of the day and night, visitors (and even local residents) can be seen "reading the stars" along Hollywood Boulevard.

It all began in 1955 when the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce implemented a suggestion of Harry Sugarman for preserving the memory of the multi-talented people who created and sustained the entertainment industry.

The idea was to implant star landmarks in the sidewalks of Hollywood, featuring the historic figures and contemporary personalities responsible for putting the area on the map.

The stars were to be made of coral terrazzo, with the celebrity's name and the outlines of the stars in bronze, inset in three foot square black terrazzo blocks. A logo would indicate whether they were associated with motion pictures, television, recording, radio or live theatre.

No fewer than 2,518 stars have been imbedded into the five acres of the boulevard's sidewalks. The first dedication ceremony was held in 1958. Within 16 months, over 1,500 luminaries had been indelibly immortalized with hundreds of stars left blank for future dedications.

The walk begins at the famous Chinese Theatre and continues eastward to Vine Street.

It lines both sides of Hollywood Boulevard, from Gower to Sycamore, and both sides of Vine Street, from Yucca to Sunset.

There are guidebooks available with listings of the stars — whom they honor, where they are located, and why they were included. However, most people prefer to simply wander along and recall from memory the names imbedded in the blocks.

The Los Angeles Corral of Westerners is prominently represented along the "Walk of Fame" by Iron Eyes Cody. Without doubt everyone's all-time favorite native American, Iron Eyes, a Cherokee Cree Indian, has touched the lives of nearly every American born in this century.

On April 20, 1983, Iron Eyes became the 1,761st person and the fourth Indian enrolled in Hollywood's "Walk of Fame." He was sponsored for that distinction by Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

Fittingly the star is located near the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Cherokee Avenue. Unveiled in a rainstorm, the star has been immortalized by the artist John Steele.

The Los Angeles Corral has no more vocal representative on the national or local scene than Iron Eyes Cody. He should know that the Corral is proud of him, his people and their accomplishments.