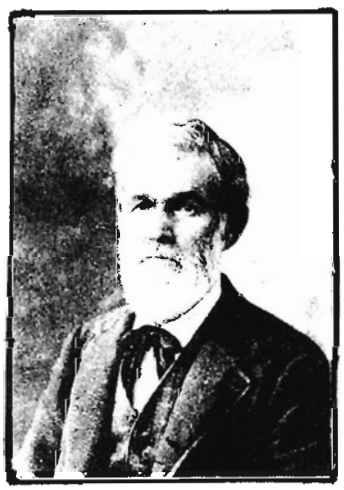
LOS ANGELES CORRAL
WESTERNERS
The Branding Iron
J. GOODMAN

SUMMER 1992 LOS ANGELES CORRAL NUMBER 188



William Mollock Godfrey and wife Lucia in later life. — *Courtesy Huntington Library.*

William M. Godfrey
Early California Photographer
1825-1900

by Frank Q. Newton, Jr.

The saga of America's western frontier has proved to be an endless fascination for historians. Countless stories, both fact and fiction, have been told about heroism, drama, and tragedy involved in the settlement of the West. This great expanse would eventually be crossed and settled by miners, farmers, homesteaders, railroad builders, and ranchers. Among the least known heros of the frontier are the pioneer photographers whose works appear, usually without any credit, in nearly every book about the American West.

The invention of the camera as we k now it, and the making of pictures on metal and glass plates, coincided with the opening of the frontier. For the first time in history an era was recorded just the way it happened, and the way it looked at the time.

In 1839 a Frenchman by the name of Louis Daguerre and his partner, Nicephore Niepce, devised a way to make permanent images from life

(Continued on Page Three)

The Branding Iron

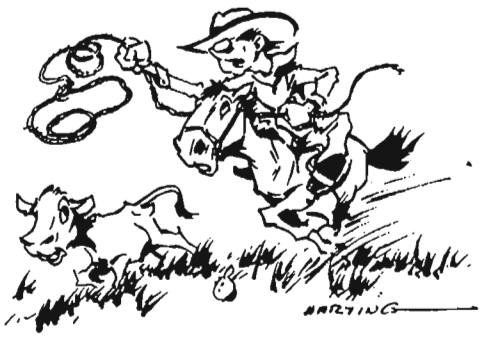
THE WESTERNERS

LOS ANGELES CORRAL

Published Quarterly in
Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter

Address for Exchanges
and Material Submitted for Publication:
The Publications Editor
Siegfried Demke
731 Fairview #10
Arcadia, CA 91007

THE BRANDING IRON solicits articles of 2,500 words or less, dealing with every phase of the Old West. Contributions from members and friends welcomed.



THE MONTHLY ROUNDUP

by Abraham Hoffman

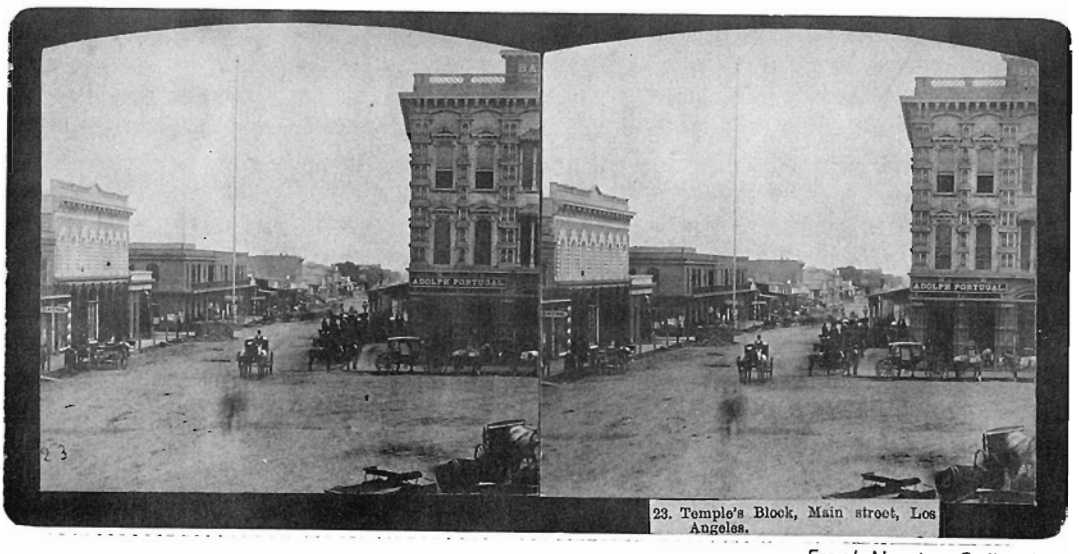
MARCH 1992 MEETING

Andrew Rolle, emeritus professor of history at Occidental College and author of *John C. Fremont: Character as Destiny,* spoke to the Corral on the subject of his biography. Fremont has long been a controversial figure; historians have either admired or loathed him. The question of why people act as they do has divided historians and misused the term "psychohistory," but Rolle applied psychoanalytic training towards a better understanding of Fremont's character.

Fremont made his mark on history with his five expeditions, his explorations, and his meteoric rise to fame. With all his accomplishments, what made him prone to acts that destroyed his reputation? Rolle notes Fremont's origins as an illegitimate child whose conception in 1813 was the cause of a Virginia scandal. When Fremont was five years old his father disappeared, and in all his later writings he never mentioned his father. A bright student, Fremont cut college classes in favor of romantic outings. He attracted the attention of Joel Poinsett who became his sponsor and introduced him to Senator Thomas Hart Benton. As a Topographical Engineer, Fremont cut a romantic figure when he met and eloped with Benton's daughter Jessie (she was 16, he 27).

Fremont became involved in a series of historical and controversial events. On his 1842 expedition he tried using an experimental rubber boat to cross the Platte River. It capsized, exemplifying Fremont's tendency to take questionable risks. On his second expedition he dragged a cannon across the continent although it was militarily useless. He

(Continued on Page Sixteen)



— *Frank Newton Collection.*

on shiny, mirror-like metal plates. This was accomplished using only sunlight and a few chemicals. In the West the daguerreotype, and later images from glass plates, would picture how the cowboys lived and worked, the various Indian tribes and their tepees, the soldiers in their forts, the men who explored and ran such expeditions, the growing towns, the building of railroads, and the faces of hundreds of thousands of people who were moving west to establish their homes and fortunes.

Among the Americans to take up daguerreotyping was William M. Godfrey who was born on November 9, 1825, in Washtenaw County, Michigan. He learned dentistry, expecting this to be his life's work. As a mere youth of 25 he set up a practice in Ann Arbor. At that time dentistry had advanced very little and he faced years to build a following. Ahead was a long and unrewarding period. Godfrey, however, was a creative individual and learned to make daguerreotypes on the side.

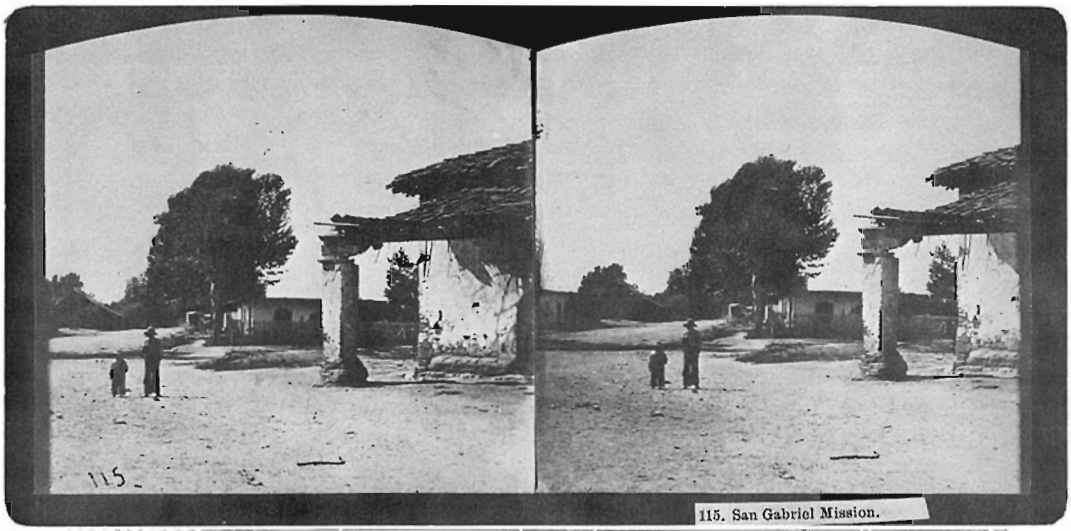
Perhaps he visited a gallery at Detroit where he saw views of the American West. There may have been pictures of Indians, spectacular mountain scenery, and the first scenes of the California gold strike—all very impressive to a young lad just learning photography. Such a photographic display likely caught his fancy and resulted in a decision to close his dental practice and go west.

In 1850 he joined an emigrant party, driving a team of oxen to the west coast. Even though he had given up dentistry, he must have taken his dental tools and maybe some of his photographic equipment. His dental skills were likely useful on the trail, but there probably was little time to take pictures. At least no 1850 views attributed to him seem to exist . He would have been very lucky to have been able to keep such baggage when so much was thrown out along the trails. The journey to Placerville, California—popularly known as Hangtown—took the party six months, from when the Spring grasses came up until the Fall.

It is not known if Godfrey mined, practiced dentistry, or took pictures to support himself at the beginning of his California stay. Perhaps he worked at all three.

While Godfrey was at Hangtown, an Argonaut—who had sailed around the Horn and passed through San Francisco—appeared with a daguerreotype camera and photographic supplies. When Godfrey learned of the availability of equipment, but lacking the funds necessary to buy it all outright, he was able to arrange a lease. He soon began taking views around the gold camps and scenery of the northern California region. Even with his skills as a dentist, it is doubtful Godfrey earned enough to satisfy his needs. So, besides taking pictures, he tried his luck at placer mining. We do not know how fortunate he was in finding gold or how long he might have worked at it, but he found that work as a miner was very hard and often unrewarding. By now he was skilled at photography, but supplies for this work were scarce like all other unessential items.

However, there was a growing demand for pictures. Residents, part-time miners, as well as town



— Frank Newton Collection.

workers were participants in many events at the camps, and photographers were able to capture these happenings on their silver-coated metal plates. That there were people such as Godfrey at the sites is the reason we have such a wealth of photographic evidence of the early California gold rush period.

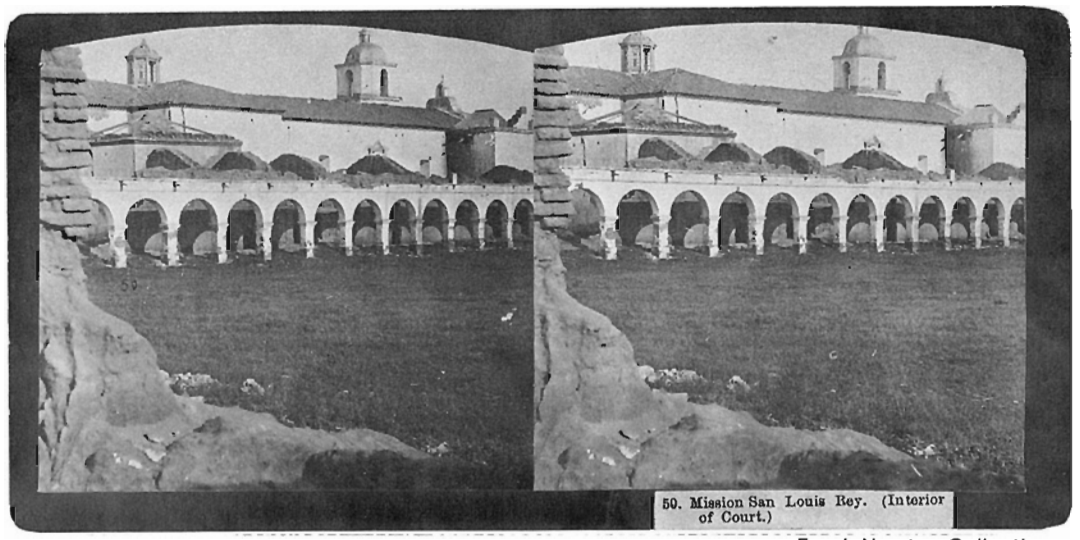
In the mid 1800's, daguerreotype scenes of the gold country was a spotty market among those who were struggling to make their pile. Few of these miners had a place to keep an album, or time to consider the value of "then and now" pictures of what was going on. However, most miners did have a family back home. For the home folks, these miners posed for one such as Godfrey, and shipped the portrait home along with a little bit of gold.

Godfrey decided that if he were to make a living from photography, the gold country was not going to be the place. He headed for San Francisco, passing through Sacramento, taking pictures along the way.. A picture of a locomotive, said to be one of the earliest used on the Sacramento Valley Railroad, appeared in a 1901 *Sunset Magazine,* and the view is attributed to W.M. Godfrey, supposedly taken at Folsom, California in 1855. The location and dating are suspect. The SVRR, California's first, was organized in 1852 to go from Sacramento to Folsom. Theodore D. Judah, who would go on to become the father of the western half of the transcontinental railroad, surveyed the SVRR. Grading started on the levee at Front and "L" streets in Sacramento, but it would be February 22, 1856 before an actual train reached Folsom.

Godfrey took several views of the railroad, its right-of-way, and train operation. His biographer claimed that his photographs of California and the gold camps were the first ever taken. We, of course, know better. For one, Robert H. Vance was reported to have been in the field during 1850 and perhaps as early as the latter months of 1849.

In the late 1850's stereo prints on cards were becoming popular in the parlors of the East. No longer were the one-of-a-kind restrictions of the older daguerreotype the sole system. Now one could have a stack of stereo cards and a viewing device giving a three-dimensional picture. The wet-plate process—although it demanded immediate negative development—produced the permanent negative that permitted the making of as many prints as desired. Enlarging from small plates was not yet well developed for field work, so the western photographers used huge cameras, producing finished negatives on the spot. Also, small dual-lens cameras went along to make plates that were used later to make stereo cards.

Many of the illustrations that appear in western history publications were copied from images provided by photographers to the various lithographers. But the one who did the camera work seldom got credit, let alone payment. When we see early California views in books, we are usually unaware of who took the view and often do not know when it was taken. There are some views that are thought to be by Godfrey, but are attributed to another. Proving it is another matter.



— Frank Newton Collection.

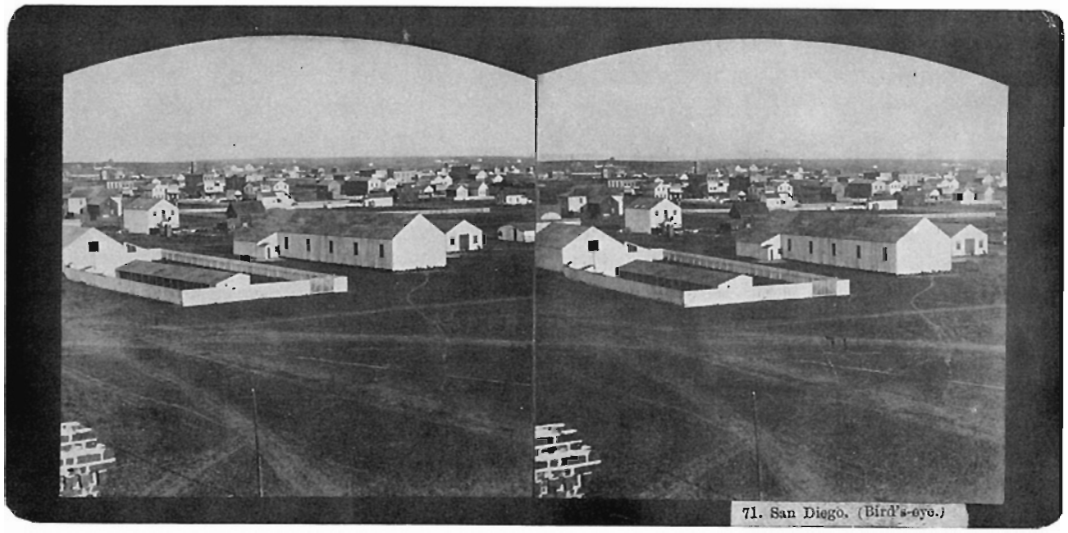
Single views and stereos were mounted on heavy card stock. A great number of the cards bore the photographer's name and often the location. Sometimes only the studio names were imprinted. Cards seldom carried a date, but on occasion they can be traced by the card stock used. In other cases the buyer added a date, or an inscription on the back.. Photographs sold during the latter part of the Civil War, 1864 and into 1866, required a U.S. Government tax stamp, usually 2¢ a card per at government rate schedule. Examining Godfrey views with the foregoing in mind may help in identifying their dates.

Godfrey, again pulling up stakes, left San Francisco and headed down the coast to Los Angeles, taking views as he went. In Los Angeles he set up a studio and display gallery with Stephen A. Rendall (sometimes spelled Randall). It is not known whether they set up a new studio or if Godfrey joined an already existing studio. Later Godfrey was associated with a Harry T. Payne. During these associations, Godfrey took a number of the very earliest views of .Los Angeles, some towns as far away as San Diego, and missions. One of his views most taken with his stereo camera is titled "Wilmington Harbor" that shows a ship chandlery often associated with the Bannings. We, of course, know this as San Pedro. A very large mural of one of the pictures of this stereo hangs on the wall at the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, once the main building of the Terminal Island Ferry service. No doubt other views we see with sailing ships, lumber schooners, and little teapot engines are his work.

The partnerships with Rendall and Payne in their Sunbeam Gallery came to an end. We can get an idea of the dating of this period and the probable derivation of the name of the gallery by noting that Sunbeam was the title of a very popular publication on the technical aspects of photography issued around 1863. This, along with the absence of tax stamps on all of three dozen stereos examined, provides hard data to date Godfrey's activities. Whether he decided to sell out because the photography business was not profitable, could not support more than one owner, or it was just time to move on is not clear. Los Angeles in the 1860's was still a very small town, and it is likely Godfrey could not sell enough views of street scenes, the harbor, and buildings to interest him. Probably the business was mostly single small portraits, not a high volume money maker.

So in 1865 Godfrey sold his interest and moved to San Bernardino, 60 miles to the east, then even smaller than Los Angeles. His newly adopted home was a family oriented community populated mostly by Mormons. Here, he again hung out his dental shingle, joining with a Dr. Alma Whitlock. Along with the dentistry, he also opened a photographic studio with Harry T. Franklin.

Godfrey became infatuated with a young lady by the name of Lucia Huntington, his junior by 25 years, who had been born in Salt Lake City, Utah, March 1850. She was the fifth of fourteen children of William Dresser Huntington, a Mormon convert from New York via Nauvoo, Illinois and now at



— Frank Newton Collection.

San Bernardino, California. (William was a distant cousin of Henry E. Huntington.) The two began a courtship, and on April 25, 1866 Miss Lucia became Lucia Huntington Godfrey. They set up housekeeping in the area and had a number of children, some of whom settled near their original home.

There is little else about the personal life of William M. Godfrey, or how many photographs he had taken over the years, and what subject matter they may have covered. His legacy is a small amount of superb views and a short biography published in *Ingersoll's Century Annals of San Bernardino County.* It was the custom of many communities in America to publish a history of their town or county, with a biography of outstanding citizens. The people included in these books not only paid the publishing house to have themselves written up in the book, but also paid added costs for a portrait. Thus the appellation "mug book."

Apparently Godfrey had no strong ties to his midwest home. He left behind his parents, four brothers, and a sister. According to one report, he never again returned to Michigan for a visit or made contact with his family. Godfrey's wife stated, following his death, "He seldom mentioned to me his life in Michigan except in connection with his birth date, and that he had practiced dentistry there."

Godfrey retired at 46 years of age. The reason for such an early retirement is unstated, but it could have been due to ill health, or possibly new found wealth acquired on the death of Lucia's father, William D. Huntington. Along with his retirement, he turned over his interest in the gallery to Harry T. Payne, one of the several partners he had had over the years. Payne, however, did not receive Godfrey's collection of glass plates and negatives. But Payne did continue to sell views that are, quite obviously, the work of Godfrey, so there must have been some kind of agreement. The Godfrey files were acquired by Adam Vail. But today their whereabouts are not known, although there are copy prints and negatives in many places.

Very little information is available about what Godfrey did after selling his films and studio. In an 1892 register of San Bernardino Godfrey is listed as having the occupation of "miner." Whether this listing was a practical joke or if he actually became involved with a mine somewhere requires research. Possibly he ventured into Calico, Randsburg, or another of the desert mines. Was not his dental partner the very one who is indelibly mentioned as making a fortune through investing in Randsburg's Yellow Aster, the best producer for 100 miles around? In any case, he left us at age 75 on November 4, 1900. He is buried at the pioneer cemetery in San Bernardino.

Most of the earlier photographs we see today as from the cameras of pioneers of the West are their choicest views. For instance, in early 1870 Godfrey belatedly photographed the first locomotive on the Los Angeles & San Pedro Railroad, known locally as the Banning Road. At about this same time he made a series of Los Angeles Harbor photographs for the United States Army Corps of

Engineers. We do not know how many exposures Godfrey had to take to get the sterling pictures we see today. But all photographers take shots where exposures are not right or something is out of focus. We are looking at only the best of an unknown number. It is likely that his primary business was making portraits and that stereos were insignificant. We do know that at least 154 of his scenes were stereos, as fellow Westerner Ernest Marquez has a card with a number 154 on it.

My interest in Godfrey started when I was given a number of stereos stored in an old trunk. Later I was privileged to examine some of the Godfrey's in the Huntington Library, of which they have eight originals. During a discussion with Ernest Marquez I learned he had a few original views. It is data from these two sources plus my 22 cards that form the listing following this article.

The color of the card stock Godfrey used varied. Many have orange fronts and pink backs. The titles and view numbers were preprinted, likely in rows on sheets, then crudely cut to size and glued down on the cards. Godfrey scratched his assigned numbers into the emulsion of the negatives, sometimes upside down, as a system to identify his views.

have been made between 1866 and 1872. The studio in Los Angeles was operated under several names due to shifting partnerships, but it was popularly known as the Sunbeam Gallery. As mentioned above, Sunbeam was likely suggested by a Civil War period photography manual, *The Silver Sunbeam*, avidly read by professionals and buffs. Notes about the gallery appeared in contemporary newspapers of the day. The *Herald* for March 31, 1875 states, "You will now find Judkins at the old Sunbeam Gallery." The *Los Angeles Express* for September 17, 1875 goes on to say, "The Sunbeam Gallery was bought by a Mr. Parker of San Diego." But by this time Godfrey had already been in San Bernardino for three years.

This checklist of Godfrey Stereos is what prompted the research on the man and his photographs. It is expected that many more views will be added to this preliminary effort. The writer has so far confined his work to only cards with positive identity, ignoring the various unmounted prints having only manuscript markings. Some of these latter look like copies of one of the two views on stereos. It is also very well known that for a very long time many photographers stole scenes from each other, so only genuine Godfreys are listed.

Godfrey imprints (reduced in size) from reverse side of stereo photographs. — *Frank Newton Collection.*

Several Godfrey stereo cards have no printing on the reverse side. Others read "From Godfrey's Photographic View Rooms—Los Angeles, Cal." A couple of the cards have handwritten dates of 1873. Another caries the number 26 and is titled only "Southern California" vertically on the left and "W.T. Payne, Los Angeles" to the right. The scene is of the Haas ranch. Another card has the Godfrey printing on the back, while a duplicate of the same card is blank. One has to conclude that Payne, who bought the San Bernardino Gallery, continued to reprint from the original negatives. This is in spite of Vail having purchased the studio and gallery. So the mystery continues.

Most of the stereos on the following list seem to

No doubt he went along with the generously overlapping transition from daguerreotypes, to carte de visites, cabinet and jumbo sizes from wet plates, and dry plate glass and plastic negatives, as we know them today. We have gone a long way to position Godfrey in time and place.

There have been a few articles published from time to time on the life of Godfrey, heavily quoting his biography in Ingersoll's. In time I hope to follow up on some of the leads suggested during inquiries about him. No doubt archives around the country contain original Godfrey views. I would be pleased to hear about them.

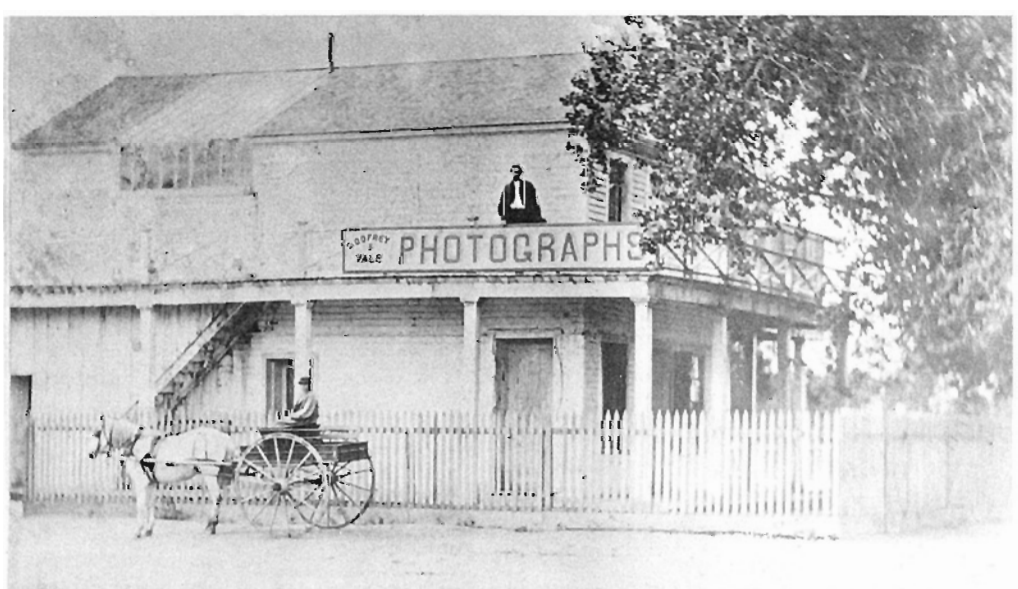
As a final comment, there are seven views that are with the Godfrey stereos at the Huntington

Library and referenced to the L.A. Railway Co. files of the Library. None of the seven numbers duplicate those on my list of 33 cards. The notations include claimed dates of between 1865 and 1871, except one (No. 7) noted as 1880—an obvious error. But these dates and numbers are consistent with the rest of Godfrey's history.

View No.	Title and Subject	Rear Imprint Orientation
8	Los Angeles From Fort Hill (Bird's-Eye)	Horiz.
10	Telegraph Hill, Los Angeles	Horiz.
12	Los Angeles From The South	Horiz.
14	Fort St., Los Angeles	Horiz.
15	Los Angeles St., Los Angeles	Vert.
15	Los Angeles St., Los Angeles	No imprint
17	Los Angels Mission, Los Angeles	Horiz.
19	Part of Los Angeles (Bird's-Eye)	Vert.
23	Temple's Block, Main St., Los Angeles	Horiz.
25	Haas Ranch, Los Angeles	Horiz.*
26	Haas Ranch	No imprint
26	Haas Ranch	Payne impr.
28	Garden of Paradise, Los Angeles	Horiz.
29	Cactus Fence, Los Angeles	Horiz.
37	Palmetto Tree, Los Angeles	Horiz.
44	Wilmington Harbor	Horiz.
48	Date Palm, San Diego Mission	Horiz.
48	Date Palm, San Diego Mission	Vert.
49	Sisters of Charity, Los Angeles	Horiz.
50	Mission San Louis Rey (Interior of Court)	Horiz.**
63	Mission San Luis Rey [Front]	Vert.
64	Mission San Diego [de Alcala]	Horiz.
65	Mission San Juan Capistrano	Horiz.
67	Mission San Diego [de Alcala]	Horiz.
68	Mission San Juan [Capistrano]	Vert.
69	Mission San Luis Rey (Interior)	Vert.
71	San Diego (Bird's-Eye)	Vert.
74	Mission San Juan [Capistrano]	Horiz.
74	Mission San Juan [Capistrano]	Vert.
76	Mission San Juan [Altar]	Vert.
80	Olive Orchard, Los Angeles, Cal.	Horiz.
115	San Gabriel Mission [Archangel]	Horiz.
120	Century Plant, Rowland's	Vert.
122	Century Plant	Horiz.
131	Hydraulic Washing, Lyle Creek Mines [San Bernardino County]	Vert.
154	Upper Main St., Los Angeles	Horiz.

* "1873" handwritten

** Card sticker clearly says "Louis," but it may be an error or an older spelling.



This photograph, date unknown, was found in San Bernardino after the final draft of this article was written. It indicates that the San Bernardino County history cited may be in error by saying that Adam Vail became a partner of Godfrey - or, there may have been another person with the Vail spelling. A 7-County Directory for 1884-5 lists "W. A. Vale & A. L. Pellegrin" as being proprietors of the "Elite Studio, D St. near 4th St.", where this pictured studio was located. Note studio skylight on the second floor of what is obviously an add-on to the original building. — *F. Q. Newton, Jr.*

Manly's Death Valley Spring

by B.G. Olesen

While traveling north on the dirt road along the 'est side of Death Valley at the edge of the John-,on Canyon aluvial fan, John Southworth and I stopped to take a look around in the general area where it is commonly agreed that the Bennett-Arcan party must have camped on their second night in Death Valley. This particular site is a mile or so south of Bennet's Well. The data concerning this camping site is unusual in that two slightly different descriptions are provided about the location rather than the usual situation where far too little information is provided. These descriptions were written some years apart, yet both allude to a running spring of fresh water on the west side of Death Valley. These descriptions have puzzled researchers for many years. For those that have visited that area and hunted for that running spring, it is almost impossible to believe that such could exist there.

The William Lewis Manley (Manly) writings on Death Valley are unique, in that the same story is told at least two times with some variations. For example, in Johnson's book *Escape From Death Valley,* published in 1987 after exhaustive research, on page 62 Manly is quoted as stating "When we got to the west side of the valley, we found a good spring of fresh water that came from the snow mountain above." The Johnsons used the serialized version of Manly's story as published in 1888 for their book section that I have quoted. In *Death Valley in '49,* originally published in 1894, as reproduced by the Chalfant Press, Manly states in the first and second sentences of the last paragraph on page 144, "The second night we found a good spring of fresh water coming out from the bottom of the snow peak almost over our heads. The small flow from it spread out over the sand and sank in a very short distance and there was some quite good grass growing around." This relates to the Bennett-Arcan party's second night in Death Valley. While not specifically so stating, this does not leave much doubt that it was actually

View, looking west, of water channel at the foot of Johnson Canyon aluvial fan. — *Photo by B. G. Olesen.*

a running stream of water and not any sort of a pool of water. A stream of fresh running water on the west side of Death Valley? That is incredulous to those who have spent some time in that locality!

It is reasonably well accepted that it took the Bennett-Arcan group two nights to reach that campsite. The Johnsons state in footnote 22 on page 62 of their book that the Bennett-Arcan group found two springs, Tule and Eagle Borax. Indeed they may have, but did they initially camp at either of those? Neither of these water sources really fit Manly's description in his 1894 version of the story or in the serialized version as quoted by the Johnsons. They are currently brush and/or water pool sites. This has puzzled numerous people for many years and some speculate that the water sources have changed over the years. One might ask the question of the 1888 version, what made Manly believe that the "spring" they found came from the "snow mountain above us"? The 1894 version of the story strongly suggests a running stream and the 1888 version infers that some observable indication was present which made him conclude where the water came from.

Another factor to be considered is that people from that generation, and their part of the country, would consider a "spring" to be water issuing from the ground at some point and running away from that point of origin to some other place. A pool of water is distinguished from "a spring" in the thought of those people by the fact that a pool has no outlet or water running away from it. Such a pool of water may be seasonal, if shallow, or permanent if a source is there too, rahter than it being a drainage pool. Such differentiation was important to those people in locating home sites on farms and determining the usefullness of farmland. Such springs were of great value in keeping food cool and were always sought after in order to build a spring house.

John Southworth and I made several visits to the Bennett-Arcan trail along the west side of Death Valley, one of which was in the Spring of 1986 and another was in the Spring of 1988. In both years there had been significant rainfall on the Panamint Mountains. On both occasions I found proof of a running stream of water at the edge of the Johnson Canyon aluvial fan, on the east side of the dirt road that currently skirts the edge of the fan there. Photographs included here, show that there had been a significant stream of water coming out from the edge of the Johnson Canyon aluvial fan, crossing the existing dirt road, forming into the channels you see in the photos and spreading out over the floor of Death Valley, which is very flat in that area. There is no question that these channels were created by running water since there were riffles created in the sand channels. I have seen this same phenomenon numerous times in the sandy beds of streams throughout the

View, looking southeast, of water channel at the foot of Johnson Canyon aluvial fan. — *Photo by B. G. Olesen.*

View, looking east southeast, of water channel at the foot of Johnson Canyon aluvial fan. — *Photo by B. G. Olesen.*

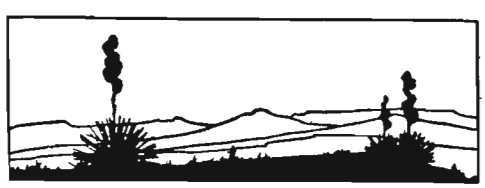
west. While I lost my photos of the 1986 trip, these are virtually identical in exactly the same place. The distance from the edge of the aluvial fan out to where the water had spread over the valley floor is about 100 yards. The maximum width of the channels was about 18 inches and the maximum depth was about 12 inches. The close up view of one channel clearly shows riffles in the sand created by the water current.

To the north of this site are some large sand dunes with mesquite growing on them. At the end of the streams where the water spreads out, are some large mesquite trees that undoubtedly survive due to the occasional water issuing from Johnson Canyon.

I have to conclude that Manly's statement was exactly correct, when he said that he found a spring of fresh water, or what he termed a spring, on that evening and the party stopped there for the night. Such a running stream of water would lead a person to conclude that it came from the mountains above. Manly did state that the "water came out from the snow mountain above us and spread out over the sand." There is not much doubt that it had to be a running stream of water to be so described. None of the existing water holes along the west side of Death Valley remotely fit that description.

Without question, such "springs" could not be expected to run for very long and when they dried up would certainly force a move to a more permanent, even though less desirable, water source. These running streams presented a more preferred water source than whatever existed at Bennett's well at that time and that is very likely why the party initially stopped there, rather than at one of the other water holes. I feel that it is probable that the Bennett-Arcan party moved to Bennet's Well if and hwen the running stream water dried up sometime after Manly and Rogers left for help.

This explanation fits the Manly description better than a stop initially at Bennet's well which was in all probability a pool or seep of water, filled with the usual scum. The "spring" description has been a perplexing point in the Manly story for a long time and has prevented the identification of the exact location of their camping site in Death Valley on that second night. The fact that these water channels exist and are without doubt the result of surface flow of water only after rain or possibly snow melts in the Panamint Mountains, leaves little doubt that this is the campsite of the Bennet-Arcan party on that night in January of 1850. Also the fact that these "springs" are so infrequently present is undoubtedly the reason for the difficulty of exactly locating that campsite.



The Newspapers of Cambria
A Short History

by Mark P. Hall-Patton

Cambria's main street before the big fire of 1889. — *San Luis Obispo County Historical Museum.*

Cambria was founded in 1866, when land that had been part of the Rancho Santa Rosa was subdivided. The area grew commercially because of the timber available in the area and because of the cinnabar resources available in the mountains of the north coast. By 1867 a post office had been established.

The post office was first called San Simeon, but this met with disfavor on the part of the local residents, as San Simeon was already the name of a settlement on San Simeon Bay a few miles away. After a few years, and much debate, the name Cambria was chosen for the small community. Though Peter Forrester, who will figure elsewhere in this article, is often given credit for suggesting the name, it is by no means clear who is owed the credit. The community boomed in its early years, through the double benefit of mineral and timber wealth of the surrounding hills.

The first newspaper to be founded in the then new community of Cambria was a short lived sheet called the *Cambria Circular.* The only reference I have located to this newspaper is a short note in the *San Luis Obispo Tribune* for March 25, 1871. The new newspaper was referred to as "a two-page, quarter sheet, semi-occasional, printed on a Corliss' toypress; well adorned with cuts, job-type, advertisements, etc., etc. We trust it may grow to be a first class daily, in time, and that Cambria may grow with it." The last name of the publisher/editor was not revealed, though he was identified as "...Pete (him of the sylvan surname)." This was probably Peter A. Forrester, a well known resident of the area at the time, and later Superintendent of Schools for San Luis Obispo County.

Unfortunately, the paper did not survive for long. No other references to the paper have been located. Forrester had been in Cambria since the late 1860's as mining engineer. The fact that the newspaper did not continue might have been linked to his move to San Luis Obispo, where he served as Mayor and District Attorney. In 1883 he left San Luis Obispo County, moving to San

Francisco to become the State Commissioner of Immigration.

By 1880 Cambria had become the second largest community in San Luis Obispo County, surpassing all but the county seat. The next decade, however, saw little growth in the community. Even the great boom of the late eighties did not effect Cambria as much as it did so many other communities in Southern California.

Cambria's next newspaper is often mistakenly credited with being the community's first. This was the *Cambria Critic,* whose founder and editor, Roma T. Jackson, led a peripatetic existence, founding and working for many newspapers during his short life. He liked Cambria so much, he founded the same newspaper on two different occasions.

why he chose to enter the newspaper field in Cambria, but the *Critic* was published until the great Cambria fire of 1889, though not without the problems inherent in small town newspaper publishing.

Like most small town newspapers of the era, the editor was synonymous with the paper. The *Critic* was apparently well named. Attacks made by the paper were personal attacks made by him, and on at least one occasion a correspondent for the *Tribune* called for his public caning. The correspondent Reverend Slocombe of Cayucos, took exception to one of the articles, and noted that visitors to the area would only discover "that the paper was simply a fit organ for its editor." He felt that Jackson was "drawing upon a diseased spleen for [his] criticism."

Cambria's town center before the big fire of 1889. — *San Luis Obispo County Historical Museum.*

Jackson's first involvement with Cambria came in December 1888, when he founded the *Critic.* The *Tribune* reported the arrival of this new newspaper in the county with this note in its December 14, 1888 issue:

> The first number of the *Cambria Critic* reached us Tuesday, and we trust that its subscribers are properly proud of their bright, newsy and handsome representative. The oldest newspaper gives friendly greeting to this latest journalistic effort.

Jackson was 22 when he founded the *Critic.* I do not know his background, though he may have been the Jackson of Burns and Jackson proprietors of the *San Miguel Messenger* in 1886. If he was, he would have been 20 at the time. Jackson was born in Ohio in 1866. It is not known

Jackson was just shy of six feet tall, with dark hair and brown eyes. He must have cut an interesting figure in the town, as he was voted "the homeliest man" in town in September 1889, and was awarded a cane as his prize. The voters were the ladies of Cambria.

Jackson's *Critic* received a severe blow on September 30, 1889, when the great fire hit the town. The fire destroyed most of the town, including the office and printing plant of the *Critic.* Though the people of Cambria offered to purchase another plant for Jackson, he did not accept the offer.

Jackson left Cambria for four years. Initially he went on the road with a traveling stereoptican slide show. In 1890 he was the editor of the *Santa Margarita Times,* which ceased publication when

the publisher, William d'Arcey Haley, died unexpectedly at the age of 63. By March of that year Jackson was in Half Moon Bay founding the *Coast Advocate.* He returned to San Luis Obispo County in late 1892 or early 1893, founding the *San Luis Obispo Breeze.* He had not forgotten the north coast though, for by February 1893 he was trying to convince the businessmen of Cayucos and Cambria that they needed another paper.

Although not successful in Cayucos, the people of Cambria apparently gave him more encouragement, for he again founded the *Critic* by April of that year. This revived *Critic* was described in the April 12, 1894 issue of the *San Luis Obispo Reasoner* as "a live, breezy, energetic representative of a fine section and a prosperous and hospitable people."

Jackson continued with the revived *Critic* for just over a year. By late 1894 or early 1895, however, his old wanderlust had caught up with him again. He left Cambria for good and headed south, founding the *Arroyo Grande Oracle* in July 1895.

The *Critic* was an aptly named paper. Though few copies of it exist, its flavor can be seen through exchanges with other papers. After one story titled "Go Soak Thy Head in the Salty Sea," and directed toward the *San Luis Obispo Tribune,* the *Tribune* felt obliged to answer. The answer was published in the September 23, 1893 *Tribune* under the heading "Fakir Journalism." In the article the *Tribune* noted:

> ...Poor *Critic!* It seems fated to be always blundering just the same way, reminding one of the Irishman who could never open his mouth without putting his foot in it. The irony of the situation seems hard on the poor thing, so ruthlessly pricking the rotund grandeur of his swelling paragraph, so full of noble self-defense, righteous indignation, pain and grief, reference for the sacred cloth and all that sort of thing...

Jackson continued his confrontational style with the *Oracle,* and his passing from San Luis Obispo County was noted with regret even by those such as the editor of the *Tribune,* who had traded shots with him. He left Arroyo Grande in 1897, going to Arizona for a few years, and eventually returning to Half Moon Bay to run the *Coast Advocate* again in 1900. He died on January 10, 1903 at the age of 37. In his short life he had founded at least six papers, five of them in San Luis Obispo County, and had certainly left a legacy.

After Jackson's newspapers, four years passed until a short-lived sheet called the *Cambria and Cayucos Interests* entered the field. The paper was edited by a Mr. Woodruff. The only reference to the paper I have located is a short note in the *San Luis Obispo Semi-Weekly Breeze* for September 10, 1897. The *Breeze,* in noting the new paper's existence, called the *Interests* "quite a newsy little sheet. Woodruff, the editor, says he feels encouraged by the patronage he has secured there."

The early years of the twentieth century did not bring phenomenal growth to the community. It was growing enough, however, so that in 1916 a regulation was passed prohibiting the running of cattle through town. Cambria had to wait until 1915 for another local newspaper. In that year C.B. Langley started the *Cambria Courier.* In the *San Luis Obispo Morning Tribune* for April 9, 1915 an article noting the arrival of another entrant in the journalism field was published. The article noted:

> C.B. Langley arrived yesterday from Cambria where he has been active in arranging for the publication of the *Cambria Courier,* which he is going to publish at the town among the pines. Mr. Langley said yesterday afternoon that he would go on to Los Angeles and arrange to bring his printing plant to Cambria at once and that the first issue of the *Courier* would make its appearance within the next three weeks...

Geneva Hamilton, in her book *Where the Highway Ends,* says that C.A. Meacham started the *Courier* on June 16, 1916. Whether Meacham bought the paper from Langley at that time, or the article in the *Tribune* was premature, is unclear. The *Courier* ceased publication with its January 4, 1918 issue. The reason for its demise was lack of advertising revenue, a common complaint in any era of newspaper publishing.

For the next twelve years Cambria was without a newspaper. In 1930 Timothy Brownhill tried his luck with the founding of the *Cambria News.* Brownhill apparently published the *News* at the same time he was publishing the *Morro Bay News,* though how long the papers lasted is unclear. By 1933 Brownhill was in San Luis Obispo publishing and editing the *San Luis Obispo News,* and had ended both his coastal ventures.

It would seem that the Cambria paper was defunct by 1931, however, as in that year Marcus Waltz started the long running *Cambrian.* The

Cambrian was edited by Waltz until health problems caused his son to take over in 1946. In 1954 the paper was purchased by Ralph Morgan, and the Waltz family's involvement ended.

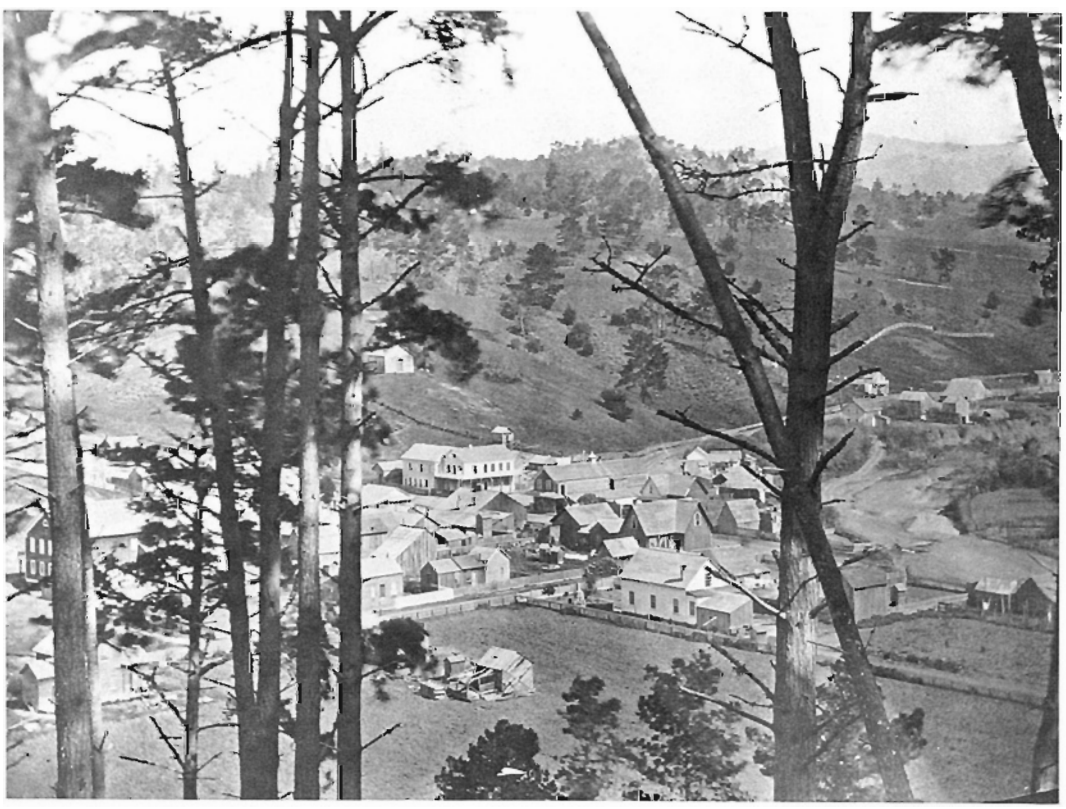
Ralph Morgan, Sr., only ran the paper for a short time, when he passed the reigns to his son, Ralph Morgan, Jr. The younger Morgan was publisher and editor until his death in 1980, when his widow succeeded him.

Virginia Morgan operated the paper until 1981, when it was sold to the Los Pinos Publishing Company. This is a part of the John P. Scripps Newspaper group, which also owns and publishes the *San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune* and the *Morro Bay Sun-Bulletin*. The *Cambrian* continues to be published today.

The most recent entry in this list was the *Cambria Independent*. Founded in September 1987 by Sheila Warren, the *Independent* ceased publication in 1989. This, like every other newspaper in Cambria's history, was a weekly. And also, as with so many others, the advertising revenues were not sufficient to keep the paper afloat.

Newspapers in Cambria have come and gone, with the exception of the *Cambrian*. With its long and illustrious history of pioneer journalism, Cambria can be seen as typical of many small western towns. Its newspapers reflected the phases of its growth, from a short boom in the early 1870's to the general Southern California boom of the late 1880's, to the coming of the Cambria Pines development in the twentieth century. The editors and publishers who tried their hands in the journalistic waters of the town ran the gamut from local boosters to itinerant journalists.

All combined, the community is a good subject for the study of journalism in small town America. Newspapers are often a fine analogy for the growth and development of a community and do what the *San Luis Obispo Daily Republic* claimed for the *Critic*, "...Give new life to the town and force it along the path of progress."



Hilltop view of Cambria, 1890 - 1891, showing many new buildings replacing those destroyed in the big fire of 1889. — *San Luis Obispo County Historical Museum.*

March meeting speaker Andrew Rolle.

disobeyed orders and took it anyway. In fact, much of what Fremont did was against orders and without authorization, including his crossing of the Sierra Nevada Range. Cannibalism occurred on his fourth expedition.

On the eve of the Mexican War, Fremont tangled with Mexican authorities, violating his purpose as leader of a peaceful scientific expedition. With war declared, he organized the California Battalion, only to argue with his superiors over who was in charge of the conquered province. This resulted in his court martial for insubordination. Cashiered from the army, Fremont recouped his loss through the public reception of his published reports, ably edited by his wife.

During the Civil War Lincoln appointed Fremont a major general. He lasted three months before getting into trouble, issuing his own unauthorized emancipation proclamation. A patient Lincoln finally demoted him and sent him to face Stonewall Jackson. Fremont, burdened with poor supplies, crumbled before Jackson. He was finally dismissed from command.

Fremont made money from his Mariposa property during the gold rush, but money went out faster than it came in through fees for lawyers and his extravagant life style. After the Civil War he dissipated his wealth, made unfortunate business decisions, and spent his last years in poverty. Jessie made the money by writing books. Rolle concludes that Fremont was his own worst enemy, doing what he had no talent or ability to do, and unable to stop taking risks. He had few friends, and many turned against him. Fremont expected fidelity but could not give it. Instead, he was impatient, opportunistic, and narcissistic, living a self-defeating life style.

APRIL 1992 MEETING

Corral member John Southworth presented maps and photographs on slides to support his argument regarding the exact route taken by William Manly in his famous trek out of Death Valley. There has been considerable disagreement as to the location of the Manly route. When the Bennett-Arcane party stumbled into Death Valley in 1849, they had no idea where they were going. Manly and John Rogers volunteered to seek help for the beleaguered families. Under considerable hardship, the two men managed to get some assistance and, with no commitment other than their promise to return, went back and saved the people in Death Valley.

April meeting speaker John Southworth.

Historians have long argued, however, over the exact route Manly and Rogers took. Manly recorded his description of the journey in his classic work *Death Valley in '49* but was rather vague about the topography over which he traveled. Southworth stated that the assumptions made about the route, that it went over the mountains, is incorrect. He said that Manly found his way out by going through the "silent sepulcher," a narrow defile that enabled Manly and Rogers to get out of the hostile terrain. Much of the confusion about

the route lies in misreading Manly's somewhat unclear description. Southworth hoped that his explanation would clear up any future confusion about this famous journey.

MAY 1992 MEETING

Corral Member Willis Blenkinsop spoke at the May meeting on the life of William Wolfskill and his contributions to the development of southern California. Wolfskill was variously an explorer, horticulturalist, citrus industry developer, education supporter, civic leader, and entrepreneur in the land and cattle business. Born in Kentucky in 1798, Wolfskill learned farming and hunting skills as a young man. In 1822 he joined William Becknell's caravan to Santa Fe. So began Wolfskill's odyssey "to find a better country in which to settle."

As an explorer Wolfskill is credited with opening the Old Spanish Trail to California. He arrived in Los Angeles in 1831 and soon began the practice of horticulture. Carpentry provided a better income for him during this time. He married Maria Valencia and fathered two children. After his wife left him William raised the children himself. In 1838 he bought 100 acres of what is now a part of downtown Los Angeles, making this property the basis for his homestead and vineyards. He remarried, this time to the daughter of Antonio Lugo.

May meeting speaker Willis Blenkinsop.

Wolfskill gained fame as the developer of citrus groves, and he made orange growing a commercially profitable venture. The work, however, was very hard. Wolfskill even had to peddle his oranges from door to door. In 1857 he planted several thousand more orange trees and made $25,000 on his last crop. Wolfskill also had other ideas about his adopted community. His interest in public education resulted in his establishing the first elementary school in Los Angeles. He invited Henry Barrows to come to Los Angeles as a teacher and funded the purchase of books. Barrows later married Wolfskill's daughter. Wolfskill also served as a member of the *ayuntamiento* (town council).

Wolfskill's life paralleled the growth of southern California in the 19th century. Besides the citrus industry, he became involved in the cattle business. He bought a 47,000-acre rancho in 1860 in Orange County—just in time for the prolonged drought that ruined the cattle business. But Wolfskill drove his cattle north to the Mojave River area, managing to save most of his herd. In 1865 he bought Rancho Santa Anita. Wolfskill was also one of those people who imported eucalyptus trees to California, making them a familiar site in the Golden State.

For all his contributions, few monuments to Wolfskill's memory exist. He should be remembered, noting Blenkinsop, for his good will and strength of character. He dealt fairly with the Californios, spoke their language, and dealt with everyone with integrity. Death came in 1866 at age 68, with Wolfskill having found a better country in which to settle.

Corral Chips

by Donald Duke

Francis J. Weber presented the Henry E. Huntington Library with his vast collection of miniature books. A miniature book is a volume that does not exceed 3 inches in length. Years ago Monsignor was admonished for cluttering his modest living quarters with tons of books. He decided to reduce

the size of books he was collecting rather than giving up collecting entirely. Despite his arduous duties as parish priest of the San Fernando Mission and archivist of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, plus a great historian, Msgr. has written extensively about missions history and miniature books and is one of the backbones of *Branding Iron* writers.

Jerry Selmer and his wife Doris hosted Academy Award nominee Graham Greene and his wife Hillary Blackmore at the Southwest Museum's annual black tie gala in March. Greene was the recipient of the museum's first annual Lifetime Achievement Award. Other Corral members attending the gala event were *Randy Joseph* and his wife Anne, and *Ranger Active* member John Selmer and his wife Barbara.

Donald Duke and *William Escherich* were anointed to membership in the Arabella and Henry Huntington Heritage Society on Wednesday May 13th at a special luncheon held in their honor. *John Haskell Kemble* was made a member before his death two years ago. The Society honors those who support the work of the Huntington by generous gifts of their collections.

Powell Greenland had his picture on the *Southern Californian* for Spring 1992 under a column reading "Meet HSSC's 48th President: Powell Greenland." Powell is a fourth-generation Californian and a dedicated historian. He is also a past sheriff of the Los Angeles Corral.

On page 2 of the *Southern Californian* a salute was given to the historical authors of the Historical Society of Southern California over the past five years. Nearly half the list was composed of Corral members. Noticed were Thomas Andrews, Warren Beck (deceased), Todd Berens, Robert Blew, Glen Dawson, Sig Demke, Donald Duke, Powell Greenland, Ed Harnagle, Abraham Hoffman, George Houle, John Kemble (deceased), Norman Neuerburg, Doyce Nunis, Don Pflueger, Martin Ridge, Hugh Tolford, Francis J. Weber, Walt Wheelock, Ray wood, and Ron Woolsey.

C.M. Tom Knapp, who created and sculptured a bronze of a football player for the Tournament of Roses Association, has been commissioned to do a life size bronze of the same figure to be installed in the front of the Rose Bowl. Tom is a former Walt Disney designer and animator and has done bronze sculpturing for art museums for 35 years.

Bob Blew is the new bookshop manager of the HSSC store at El Alisal. Bob has always had a soft spot in his heart for books. He grew up in a home where "if you didn't read you were odd." He recently retired from the Los Angeles Unified School District as a teacher.

Siegfried Demke took off for Washington, D.C. to see the cherry blossoms and to dip his toes in the political waters last April, but Senator Alan Cranston sent his school of piranha fish after Demke and he lost his big toe. He hobbled around all the art galleries and museums, and was nabbed in the Bureau of Printing and Engraving for trying to bribe one of the printers and absconding with a stack of one hundred dollar bills. He was officially photographed with his head poked through a hundred dollar bill.

C.M. Russ Leadabrand who was editor of Brand Book No. 11, the one on the desert country and one of the best Brand Books. He now lives in Cambria and is currently publishing a monthly magazine on the "lighter side of Cambria" called *Russ Leadabrand Sez.* The periodical covers Leadabrand's exploration into the area's back country, wildlife, local art, artists, and local humor. Those interested in subscriptions may contact Russ at 685 Worchester Drive, Cambria, Ca. 93428.

Longtime *Associate* member Merrill A. Miller passed away February 26, 1992. He was in his '90s and was a National Park Ranger for years. He even drove a car until a couple of years ago.

C.M. Dick Dillon spoke to the Society of California Pioneers on March 25, 1992 on "Reworking an Old Vineyard—The History of Napa Valley." Dick has been working on his Napa Valley story for some time. I think he is checking out the corks from old wine kegs! At the meeting he became an Honorary Member of this august gathering of pioneers. Dick was afraid that Al Shumate might drop a black ball in the voting box, but instead it was a stained cork.

Norman Neuerburg is so busy on the lecture circuit I wonder if he has time to sleep. He presented your "Corral Chipper" with page after page of his "doings." I will only cover the highlights. He has two exhibits going, one called "Spain—Real and Imaginary" at the Decorative Arts Study Center at San Juan Capistrano, and "Henry Chapman Ford at the Mission Inn" at the Riverside Art Museum. On the podium he presented "Fray Bonaventura Sitjar Porrerenic" to the Porreres in Mallorca, Spain in January; "San Gabriel Mission Update" was presented to the California Mission Studies Association at the annual meeting in February

1992; "Saint Bonaventure—Seraplic Doctor" was given to the Ventura County Historical Society in March, also this same month "Continuity and Contrast—Fray Junipero Serra in the Sierra Gorda and Alta California" was given before the San Diego Historical Society.

Glen Dawson wrote about "Aldus Manutius—the Original Page Maker" in the November 1991 issue of *Hoja Volante,* the quarterly of the Zamorano Club of Los Angeles. Glen is also an Associate Editor of this publication together with *Doyce Nunis* and *Frank J. Weber.* Part two of his article appears in the February 1992 issue.

C.M. Steve Born recently spoke before the Oregon California Trails Association on the "Workman-Rowland Party" the first American immigrant party to travel to Southern California in 1841.

Hugh Tolford was the featured speaker at the March meeting of the San Fernando Historical Society held at the historic Andrew Pico Adobe in Mission Hills. His topic was "Greenwater—Death Valley's Copper Camp. *C.M.* Glenn Thornhill has been elected a director of this group.

C.M. David Kuhner is cataloging rare books for the Francis Bacon Library at Claremont. He is also compiling a provenance index which will list all the bookplates and owners inscriptions found in the books.

In answer to remarks made in this last issue of the *Branding Iron* that members were failing to blow their own horn, Glen Dawson responded by stating "Don't give up. You do a great job." With his "Request for News" Glen sent a copy of his current catalog which features *Ranger Active Member* Bill Kimes collection. Kimes was active for years while business manager of Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, then retired to Mariposa.

C.M. Sid Gally will be speaking before the Pasadena Historical Society by the time Corral members read this. His topic is "Former Residents of Pasadena Who Had a Lasting Effect on Santa Catalina Island." For the curious, the "Big Five" are Hancock Banning, Peter Gano, Charles Frederick Holder, William Wrigley, Jr., and David M. Renton.

Martin Ridge, Head of Research at the Huntington Library and Professor of History at the California Institute of Technology spoke at California State University, Northridge on "California: The Imagined Country" on April 24, 1992.

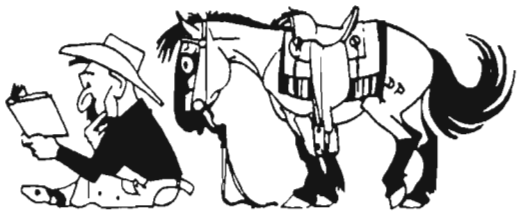
Michael Torguson has moved to sponge off his parents while attending college in Oregon. The "Valley Girls" will finally be safe!

Abraham Hoffman is authoring a high school text book on the history of California. Wonder if this book will feature California's water problem?

Wade Kittell, aka "Mr. Long Beach," presented a slide program on California Cemeteries for the San Fernando Historical Society recently. He presented the same program to the History Department of the Ebell Club of Long Beach in January. In April he led a bus tour of the Downey Historical Society to Captain Ahab's Maritime Museum at Port Hueneme. For those who don't know who Captain Ahab is, just think Dick Cunningham!

Ray Wood spoke to the Downey Historical Society in March. His topic was "Uncle Jeff Mayfield, Who Survived Alone in Death Valley for Over a Year."

Heading for the hills around San Francisquito Canyon, on May 16th, 1992, to help the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power celebrate the 75th anniversary of San Francisquito Power Plant No. 1, were Benjamin Abril, Robert Blew, Siegfried Demke, Donald Duke, Ernest Marquez, and C.M.'s Thomas Gildersleeve and Todd Peterson. Divining rods brought by Duke and Demke were unnecessary as the existence of water was obvious as it roared out of the power plant turbine gates in great white arches, when the operation of the plant was demonstrated for the visitors. On the return from the celebration the visitors located the exact site of the ill-fated San Francisquito Dam (see *Branding Iron* No. 160).



DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL ...

SOLDIERS AND SETTLERS: *Military Supply in the Southwest, 1861-1885,* by Darlis A. Miller. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1989. 506 pp. Maps, Tables, Illustrations, Notes, Bibliography, Index. Cloth $45. Available from University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM 87131.

Soldiers and Settlers is all that its introduction portends it to be—admittedly not a military history but an academic focus on the economic interaction between the military and civilians in the Southwest during and after the Civil War. Darlis Miller carefully and specifically breaks up the general subjects within by using a purely topical approach. Agriculture, fuel, commissary supplies, foodstuffs, ranching, construction, civilian employees, transportation are the subjects treated; and each is covered in detail with facts, occurrences and situations. The topical approach used is somewhat like a mini encyclopedia, all information on a specific subject is easily located by reading a given chapter or part of a chapter.

The research, although not showy, is carefully documented as evidenced by one fifth of the book being devoted to notes. The overall presentation of each subject generally follows the same pattern, here a point, there a story, a few facts, a quotation, and then some analysis. The focus seems at times to be a microscopic view of something larger. It can leave the impression that even though much information is given, the reality of it may really be different if you could only see the larger view. The reader is left to make the overall picture.

Historical analysis is dependent upon the perspectives of both the writer and reader. Analysts and historians are as different as personalities are and consequently each decides what is important, even what is correct. But this is why we need such works as *Soldiers and Settlers* to give us material that we can use to continually evaluate our history, our heritage and ourselves.

Some have said of academic books that they only contain one good chapter, all the rest being filler to make up a book so that the authors and professors can claim having written a *book* instead of a pamphlet. But *Soldiers and Settlers* has many good chapters. Each chapter is filled with good information.

Since food is so close to my heart, my interest was attracted to chapter 4, Millers and Merchants. Here, there is a lengthy discussion of food, freshness of perishable products, the kinds and qualities of foods available, transportaion thereof, etc. Referencing flour, cornmeal, bacon, butter, salt, beans had me picturing myself back then with the people, buying groceries and supplies, interested in the circumstances that governed the supply line just as the settlers did. I could see myself in a sort of time warp. Good material here on daily living in the past.

Finally, although *Soldiers and Settlers* is a very good source of Southwestern history there is no story flow, no connecting thread that keeps the reader excited to get into the next chapter and no concluding or summarizing chapter. But as a source of historical data, it is excellent.

Joseph Cavallo

FEDERAL JUSTICE IN CALIFORNIA: *The Court of Ogden Hoffman, 1851-1891,* by Christian G. Fritz. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1991. 324 pp. Illustrations, Appendix, Notes, Index. Cloth, $40.00. Available from University of Nebraska Press, 901 N. 17th Street, Lincoln, NE 68588-0520.

With the exception of a few dedicated Zamorano 80 collectors and serious students of California History it is doubtful that many people have heard of Federal District Judge Ogden Hoffman. Justice Hoffman was a District Court Judge for the Northern Calif. District from 1851

to 1891. He is most noted for his decisions involving land cases covering the legality of the most important Spanish and Mexican land grants in California. As the author points out in his introduction, most studies of law and judicial decisions focus on the appellate level. This is a look at law where it is formed: the lower courts.

Hoffman was the privileged son of a wealthy New York lawyer who came to California in 1850. He was appointed the First Judge of the Northern District only after numerous other persons either turned down the position or were unable to obtain senate approval. He continued to serve in that capacity for 40 years, deciding more than 19,000 cases and leaving a voluminous record. In approaching his task the author examines both the person and his record as a jurist. He also examines the function of the court; who used it, and for what purpose.

Hoffman's predictable nature endeared him to business interests, for business could tolerate adverse decisions as long as they were consistent. In the early admiralty cases he frequently ruled against shipping companies in faovr of crew and passengers. Hoffman often clashed with zealous federal officials and Supreme Court Justice Field in cases involving the Chinese. Even though he agreed with popular sentiment against Chinese immigration he jealously guarded the rights of individuals, and allowed the Chinese the full benefits of his courts to address their rights. He established equitable principles, and took the time to insure that litigants had their day in court.

For forty years Hoffman presided over his district, and maintained his strong independence. In many ways the office and the man became one. If one wants to obtain a flavor of the routine cases of the era, this is an informative source. This was a court of the people, and equitable decisions. These cases were seldom appealed, and did not make new law. The picture of Hoffman that we receive is one of a rather stodgy, contemplative man who took his job seriously, and was often frustrated in his attempts for higher federal office. However, he served faithfully; providing a forum in which all litigants received a full and fair hearing.

Michael W. Nunn

NATURE'S METROPOLIS: *Chicago and the Great West,* by William Cronon. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1991. 533 pp. Maps, Illustrations, Notes, Bibliography, Index. Cloth, $27.50. Available from W.W. Norton & Company, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10110.

Nature's Metropolis contains elements of what we call western and urban history, but it transcends both. Perhaps ecological or environmental history comes closest to conveying its full scope. Certainly William Cronon has broken new ground in demonstrating the changing and complex interrelationships between urban and rural middle America. As he describes it, the book "is a series of historical journeys between city and country in an effort to understand the city's place in nature" (p. 8). Cronon is fully aware of the many meanings we ascribe to nature but its use is deliberate and he assigns special significance to "original" nature and "second" nature. He draws our attention to the fact that rural or country America is no longer original. Virgin forests, prairie grasses, Indians and buffalo are gone; second growth forests and plowed fields are no more "natural" than skyscrapers or belching smoke stacks (pp. 7-8).

For Cronon, Chicago's rise in the second half of the nineteenth century to its place as the preeminent city of the Great West is intricately linked to the growth of its immense hinterland and to the transformation of "natural" resources like grain, livestock and lumber into capital. His meticulous research thoroughly validates his claim of Chicago's place and he is at his best when showing the range and extent of its financial tentacles. Meticulous and massive research tied to computer generated models allowed Cronon to produce a county by county analysis of bankruptcies in 1873 in six of the largest states comprising Chicago's vast hinterland. The results prove that the preponderance of creditors were Chicago-based. He also documents how new technology (the railroad and telegraph especially) speeded capitalization and linked Chicago with its hinterland (the source of its raw materials) and its eastern and world markets to such a degree that all became interdependent on each other.

Borrowing methods and theories from the social sciences, especially economics and geo-

graphy, Cronon employs whatever is useful to explicate his thesis. Readers will find his prose style clear even when he tackles complex issues like capital formation, transfer and transformation. Maps, graphs and photographs assist us to better understand the complex and ever changing interrelationships Cronon introduces. His work is important and his approach is particularly suited to Chicago, but readers should not be limited to transplanted Middle Westerners. All will benefit from a careful reading of *Nature's Metropolis* and find it intriguing and provoking.

L. Craig Cunningham

SESPE GUNSMOKE, by Charles F. Outland (Spokane, WA and Ventura, CA: The Arthur H. Clark Company and the Ventura County Museum of History and Arts, 1991). Pp. 181.

In this "epic case of rancher versus squatters," the late Charles F. Outland (1910-1988) provides a well-documented account of the notorious murder of Thomas Wallace More at his Sespe *rancho*.

In their accounts of earlier times, many chroniclers of the West have overlooked, distorted and even suppressed unpleasant events that exerted a lasting importance on succeeding generations. An example would be the vicious murder of March 24, 1877 which was characteristic of the Wild West.

The incident gained national prominence in following decades even to the point of being discussed in European newspapers. As the trial of the alleged conspirators progressed, the story of conflict between rancher and squatters emerged as one that plagued much of the Southwest in the decades following the Mexican War.

Long obscured by subsequent historians anxious to downplay negative publicity and its effect on boosterism, this murder evolved into a classic account wherein battles over land, water and the rights of the lower class against landlords occasionally resulted in dark deeds carried out in secret.

In this well-written and carefully-researched volume, Outland reveals the names of the conspirators and then pursues them through subsequent years. The treatise is supplemented by illustrations, maps, a detailed list of characters and index.

Msgr. Francis J. Weber

LOVE AND WAR: *Pearl Harbor Through V-J Day, World War II Letters and Later Reflections,* by Robert and Jane Easton. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991. 397 pp. Illustrations, Index. Cloth, $24.95. Available from University of Oklahoma Press, 1005 Asp Avenue, Norman, OK 73019.

At first, one wonders why the University of Oklahoma Press published World War II letters between a man and wife. Slowly, the realization comes that these and collections like them will be the basis of future histories. Future books on how junior officers felt about the war, how wives coped, familial relationships and sensuality will draw upon these and similar writings. Although the Eastons were not your average couple, they did represent a certain segment of the middle class. He was a Harvard graduate and a drop out from the Stanford University Law School. She was the daughter of Frederick Faust (Max Brand) and had lived in Europe for many years. Although only recently married, he decided to volunteer shortly after Pearl Harbor. They wrote each other almost nightly; as she pointed out in one letter, she had written 330 out of the previous 365 days.

The letters cover his basic training at Camp Roberts, Officer Candidate School, his advanced unit training, time in England, his arrival on the Continent, and finally his transfer to an Infantry Company and the final campaign to capture Germany. Her letters were mostly written from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara. His letters usually dealt with his military life; although, he frequently shared information about people he met or the local regions in which he found himself. He was very open about his feelings, about his fear of death, and his hopes for the future. On the other hand, he makes very little of combat and usually neglects to mention any real danger to which he had been exposed. There are no great philosophical truths present. Even his revulsion to the dropping of the atomic bomb

was modified by the underlining feel of "Thank God, I won't have to go to the Pacific." The one thing that is noticeable in his letters is the feeling that he found more collaboration with the Germans by the French than normally acknowledged.

For the most part, her letters deal mostly with giving birth to two children, attempting to raise them alone, her feelings of longing for her husband, her fears of him being killed, and coping with her father's death. Interestingly, she is more open about her sensuality than he. In later letters, she talks about working in the Army hospital and the soldiers whom she encountered there. The waste of war was very clear in these letters.

One wishes she would have written more about shortages, general problems of life, and her feelings about world affairs. Also, one wishes he had discussed his and his comrades reactions to other events. Life in an Infantry Company was very restrictive, but there was more discussion than just the fear of going to the Pacific.

This book will be welcomed by those who were there to refresh their memories and feelings of the times. For younger readers, it will be an interesting introduction into the feelings of the participants of World War II.

Robert W. Blew

EXPLORING THE HOHOKAM: *Prehistoric Desert Peoples of the American Southwest,* edited by George J. Gumerman. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1991. 499 pp. Maps, Illustrations, Tables, References Cited, Index. Cloth, $45.00. Available from University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1591.

This is *not* a book for the casual reader. It is a very scholarly effort at compiling the most recent research efforts by anthropologists and archaeologists about the Hohokam people.

The Hohokam were one of three primary prehistoric societal groups living in the Southwest (the other two were the Mogollon and the Anasazi). The Hohokam lived in the Sonoran desert area of what is now southern Arizona and northern Mexico. They were doubtless the predecessors of the present-day Pima and Papago peoples. Essentially they were a desert group who lived with the impermanency of the ever-changing desert. For this reason, they have been a more difficult pre-historic society to study today than their rock and cliff dwelling neighbors of the north and east.

Dr. Gumerman does an excellent job of bringing together current research efforts by contemporary experts, all of whom have given some re-evaluation to earlier theories in light of recent research and ever-changing technology. The book is full of very detailed charts and maps illustrating the many aspects of the subject discussed.

Exploring the Hohokam is an important contribution to ongoing knowledge of those who came before today's people. But, as I indicated at the outset, it is not a book for everyone—unless you have a very scholarly interest in the subject.

Jerry Selmer

JOHN CHARLES FREMONT—CHARACTER AS DESTINY, by Andrew Rolle. Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1991.

John C. Fremont was: adventuresome, brave, foolhardy, quixotic, charismatic, undiplomatic, over-achieving, egotistical, racially tolerant, simultaneously brilliant and stupid, naive, reckless, self-promoting, ambitious, promiscuous, tactless, restless, driven, inscrutable, amoral, complex, magnetic, illegitimate, peripatetic, rootless, heroic, narcissistic, blustering, courageous, impulsive, unstable, defiant, robust, ruthless, insensitive, extroverted, vainglorious, rash, floundering, tempestuous.

As much as any man he opened the West and was idolized by the nation, testimony of which includes the naming of counties in four states, a dozen cities and towns, and an infinite number of schools, streets, trees, peaks, springs, passes, rivers, and glaciers.

This biography shows the 27 years of research that went into it as well as the author's undergoing personal psychoanalysis to better understand one of the most intriguing and complex characters ever to appear on the American scene.

Rolle's narrative gives the reader just the right

amount of detail about the man, his family life, and adventures. The author makes you feel the bitter cold from the blizzards that Fremont and his men experienced in the Rockies and Sierras. You campaign alongside Fremont as the first Republican nominee for the presidency. You share his frustrations with the military, but you also come to understand why President Lincoln called him "a bespattered hero." You come to appreciate the role played by his wife Jessie; Irving Stone's "Immortal Wife," a best-selling fictional account, Rolle dismisses as "unfortunate." The biography doesn't end with Fremont's death and the usual follow-up of a biography, but rather with a whole chapter devoted to explaining what made the man tick.

Welcome to the world of psycho-history; you will be riveted.

Don Pflueger

THE FINAL VOYAGE OF THE *CENTRAL AMERICA* 1857, by Normand E. Klare. Spokane: The Arthur H. Clark Co., 1992. 278 pp. Appendixes, bibliography, index. Cloth $32.95. Available from The Arthur H. Clark Co., P.O. Box 14707, Spokane, WA 99214.

Though I'm not familiar with any other published works of Normand Klare, he has done his homework for this publication. The author brings the readers on board the *Central America* in her last and agonizing hours afloat. He allows you to get acquainted with both the men and women who demonstrated their willingness to sacrifice their own lives for their fellows. The scene is described in such detail, it makes the reader wonder if Normand Klare was on the *Central America* as well, documenting that initial tragedy first hand. This is not too far from the truth, for at the age of nine, Normand's grandmother conveyed to him the agony she experienced as a survivor of the *Central America* sinking. Normand also briefly examines the secondary tragedy, the loss of California gold specie on board the ill fated steamer that was destined to arrive in New York. It was speculated that the specie on board the *Central America,* at the time of her sinking, to be worth over $2,000,000. This loss contributed to an already stressed economy.

It was not until 1976, that Klare pursued his research to find the answers and give truth to so much that had previously been left to speculation. The author supports his findings through letters, newspapers, and an excellent bibliography of publications. These references are footnoted throughout the entire book.

The *Central America* was a side-wheel steamer in the early days of that maritime technology. Since this new technology was less than reliable, the ship carried three masts and was able to hoist sails as backup to her steam engines when required. Had the *Central America* been a sailing vessel lacking her cumbersome steam engines, the chances are that she would have survived the hurricane and brought her passengers and the large shipment of gold safely to port. What may or could have happened is not analyzed in any great depth by the author; what transpired before, during and after this catastrophic event in history is analyzed profoundly.

The book includes biographies of some of the noteworthy characters depicted in the *Central America's* loss, which the reviewer found to be of great interest. The author also looks at the contemporary furor and legal debate involving the spectacular salvage effort being carried out by an east coast salvage team to recover the California gold.

Klare's feelings about the *Central America* loss is obvious in his in-depth research and his insightful narrative in describing the heroic actions of her passengers and crew at the time of her sinking and the Jules Vernesque approach in recovering sunken treasure hidden 8,000 feet below the black ocean depths for 135 years.

This well done book will engage arm-chair adventures and scholars interested in maritime history as well as those interested in the colorful history of the California Gold Rush Era.

Robert V. Schwemmer