



WINTER 1996

LOS ANGELES CORRAL

NUMBER 206



Whence the name cometh. Meeting in 1948.

## The Founding Fathers

### Charter Members of the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners

by Glen Dawson

The Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners was organized December 19, 1946. On the 25th anniversary an unnumbered *Brand Book* was published, *The San Francisco Vigilance Committee of 1856*; the editor, Doyce B. Nunis, dedicated it to the 26 charter members. On the 40th Anniversary

there was a gala banquet at the Huntington Library with Stanley E. Malora chairman of the anniversary committee. A four page menu and history was distributed. The 50th anniversary was celebrated May 19, 1996, at the California Heritage Museum in Santa

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**The Branding Iron  
THE WESTERNERS  
LOS ANGELES CORRAL**

*Published Quarterly in  
Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter*

**OFFICERS 1996  
TRAIL BOSSES**

THOMAS W. BENT.....*Sheriff*  
*P.O. Box 6002, Pasadena, CA 91102*

ABRAHAM HOFFMAN.....*Deputy Sheriff*  
*19608 Gifford St., Reseda, CA 91335*

GLENN H. THORNHILL.....*Registrar of*  
*8108 Zelzah Ave., Reseda, CA 91335*    *Marks & Brands*

RAYMOND J. PETER.....*Keeper of the Chips*  
*5002 Stern Ave., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423*

ROBERT BLEW.....*Publications Editor*  
*12436 Landale St., Studio City, CA 91604*

MSGR. FRANCIS WEBER..*Past Sheriff Trail Boss*

MICHIAL W. NUNN..... *Past Sheriff Trail Boss*

**APPOINTED OFFICERS**

MICHAEL A. GALLUCCI.....*Wrangler Boss*

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STEVEN BORN.....*Assistant Registrar,  
Exhibits Wrangler*

KENNETH PAULEY.....*Editor, Brand Book 20*

MSGR. FRANCIS WEBER..*Editor, Brand Book 21*

Address for Exchanges & Material Submitted for Publication:

**The Publications Editor, Robert Blew**  
**12436 Landale Street, Studio City, CA 91604**  
*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. Copyright © 1996 by the Westerners Los Angeles Corral. Publication Design & Layout by Katherine Tolford*

**A MESSAGE FROM  
THE SHERIFF ON OUR  
50TH ANNIVERSARY**

As I reflect on the half-century existence of our wonderful Los Angeles Corral, I have to tell you how much I appreciate the honor you have bestowed on me to serve as your Sheriff during our 50th Anniversary year.

Due to the dedication of the founding members, and new members as they have joined, we have enjoyed 50 years of prosperous and continuous growth and activity.

We have published nineteen *Brand Books* (with two more in the works). Our Quarterly *Branding Irons* and keepsakes continue to be second to none in substance and quality. And our monthly meetings have always featured interesting and knowledgeable speakers.

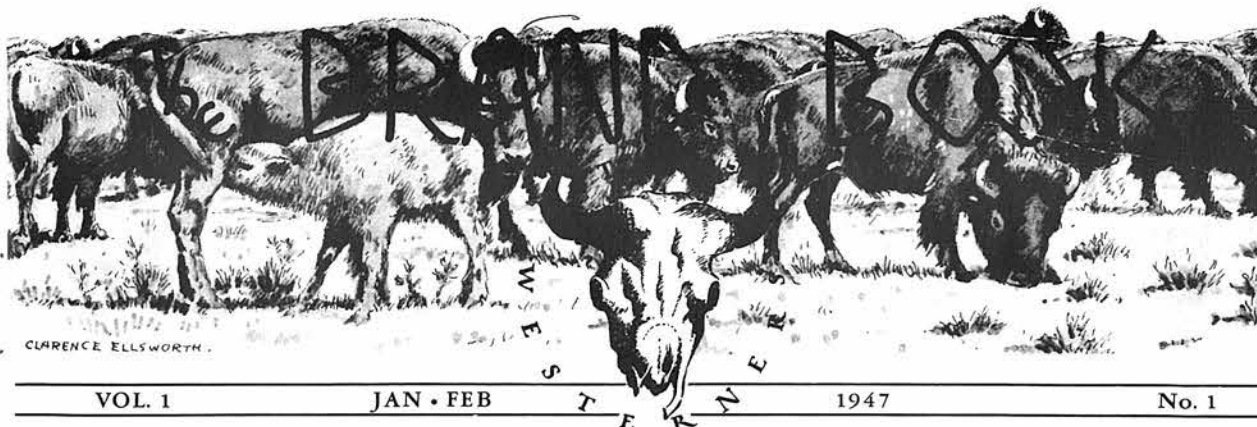
If we maintain the principles upon which the corral was founded, and if all the members continue to participate in our activities and goals, I am confident that the future of the corral will be as bright as the last 50 years have been.

Thomas W. Bent  
Sheriff, 1996

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

The Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners has always had an extensive publishing record - *Branding Irons*, *Brand Books*, and various keepsakes. This policy was established immediately upon the founding of the Corral, and it was decided to publish a bimonthly periodical entitled, *The Brand Book*, which would reproduce the monthly presentations. After five issues the publication was discontinued, and a quarterly, *The Branding Iron*, which was to print articles submitted by the members was created.

Both the first *Brand Book* and the first *Branding Iron* are reproduced on the following pages.



## THE WESTERNERS AND ITS PURPOSE

Like the Chicago and Denver Corral, the new Los Angeles Corral of *Westerners* organized December 1946, came into existence to enable men with common interests to meet with reasonable frequency and to exchange information and knowledge relative to the cultural and historical background of what is commonly called *The West*.

The subject *The West* is so broad that it encompasses not only half of the continental United States but reaches to the very roots of present-day evolution of earlier explorations and activity.

In our group of members can be found men whose hobbies and vocations cover many of the most fascinating subjects of research dating back to the prehistoric days, down through the Indian and Spanish phases of our own region. There are probably a thousand subjects that might be listed and found to be of mutual interest to the members.

Each man is expected to take an active interest in each meeting and to prepare a paper on a subject of his own choice. This spirit of fair exchange enables every man to broaden his own knowledge of the West and to contribute some of the richness of his own study and experience.

### H E BRITZMAN

725 MICHIGAN BLVD  
PASADENA CALIF

THE CHICAGO CHAPTER OF THE WESTERNERS AT ITS REGULAR DECEMBER MEETING MONDAY VOTED TO SEND ITS HEARTIEST GREETINGS TO NEW CHAPTER AT LOS ANGELES. THE POSSE WANTS TO ADD ITS SALUTATIONS AND JOIN IN WISHING MUCHO EXITO A NUESTROS COMPANEROS—THE WESTERNERS



Sheriff H. E. Britzman

## BEGINNINGS

Are you interested in preserving things Western—its history and traditions? Do you know of the national organization known as *The Westerners*? Are you familiar with the Chicago and Denver chapters of this organization? Would you enjoy the fellowship of such a group and support it here in Southern California?

Thus did H. E. Britzman, Charlie Russell fan and branding iron collector, and Robert J. Woods, well-known California bibliophile, interrogate a few men who later met informally at the Britzman residence to hear more of the proposal. With Britzman and Woods, this formative group included Lindley Bynum, Jim Williams, Clarence Ellsworth, Jack Harden, W. W. Robinson, Glen Dawson and Paul Galleher. Mr. Britzman read the correspondence from the Chicago and Denver chapters and a general discussion followed.

(Continued on page 2)

## FUTURE MEETINGS

Several very interesting meetings are on the board for the local Corral which should insure a good turnout and a continuing interest in our roundups.

The February meeting was to hear a talk by E. A. Brininstool on *Billy The Kid*, which subject is always of interest to Westerners.

### Early Days in the Southwest

We are fortunate to have scheduled for the third Thursday of March a man who will speak authoritatively on a subject of wide interest to us all. Percy Bonebrake of Sierra Madre has graciously consented to talk on *Reminiscences of Early Days in the Southwest*. Knowing his background in the cattle business and he being a native son of Los Angeles, makes his paper of especial interest to all members.

### Open Range Days in Old Wyoming

Jack Rollinson will take over the floor at our April roundup and will talk on a subject about which he is most familiar—*Open Range Days in Old Wyoming*. Incidentally, Jack's new book *Wyoming Cattle Trails*, is now on the press and will be out some time this year.

★ ★ ★ ★

Clarence Ellsworth has a wealth of intimate knowledge and experience gleaned from his frequent visits to the Sioux Indians at Pine Ridge. Clarence isn't usually given to much talk, so it's going to be *something* when he lets go at the May roundup and gives us some of his recollections of the Sioux Indians. The subject (which inadequately describes the treat in store) is "*Indian Mysteries*."

Who's next?

# THE BRAND BOOK

ISSUED BIMONTHLY AS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LOS ANGELES CORRAL OF THE WESTERNERS

## Communications to the Corral:

ROBERT J. WOODS  
Registrar of Marks and Brands  
320 So. Manhattan Place  
Los Angeles 5, Calif.

## Communications to the Brand Book:

HOMER H. BOELTER  
Roundup Foreman  
828 No. La Brea Ave.  
Hollywood 38, Calif.

## POSSE OF THE LOS ANGELES CORRAL OF THE WESTERNERS

Sheriff . . . . .	H. E. BRITZMAN
Deputy Sheriff . . . . .	JACK HARDEN
Round-up Foreman . . . . .	HOMER BOELTER
Registrar of Marks and Brands . . . . .	ROBERT J. WOODS
Representative . . . . .	ARTHUR WOODWARD
Wranglers . . . . .	{ NOAH BEERY, JR. PAUL GALLEHER

## BEGINNINGS (continued from page 1)

Before the evening was spent, the fundamental principles of the proposed chapter had been outlined and in a measure determined, including proposals for yearly dues of \$6.00, a board of directors to comprise five elected officers, monthly meeting time and place, and sketch of publication policy. The nominating committee proposed the following officers who were formally elected at the organization meeting held at the Redwood Cafe on December 19th, 1946.

Sheriff . . . . .	H. E. BRITZMAN
Deputy Sheriff . . . . .	JACK HARDEN
Round-up Foreman . . . . .	HOMER BOELTER
Registrar of Marks and Brands . . . . .	ROBERT J. WOODS
Representative . . . . .	ARTHUR WOODWARD
Wranglers . . . . .	{ NOAH BEERY, JR. PAUL GALLEHER

## BRAND BOOKS ARRIVE

A few members of the *Los Angeles Westerners* have recently received their copies of the 1944 Brand Book from the Chicago Corral. The book, long delayed, was well worth the wait, as it makes a very real addition to any library. We understand the edition, though not numerous, was limited to 400 copies.

The book is beautifully printed from fine open-face type on paper of the best quality. In design it will match the best of the book-builder's art. The binding is in excellent taste, with a minimum of gold stamping.

In addition to the eleven papers presented before the *Chicago Westerners* during its first year of meetings, the volume contains a few footnotes suitable to the material and a complete index.

The Denver Corral too has every reason to be proud of their 1945 Brand Book, issued some months ago in a limited, numbered edition of 350 copies. The few members of the Los Angeles Corral who are fortunate enough to have this book, rate it tops in design and style—not to mention the well edited contents, complete with footnotes and index.

These two fine volumes have set a standard of excellence that will be hard to beat—though the local boys do not intend to be outstripped. Wait and see!



## VISITING REPRESENTATIVE

Leland Case, Deputy Sheriff of the Chicago Corral, made a short visit to the Los Angeles area in February. We were sorry he wasn't able to meet with us at our February roundup, but we hope other *Westerners* will remember our meeting date and be able to join us—the third Thursday of each month at the Redwood Cafe on First Street, near the Los Angeles Times Building, at 6:00 P.M.

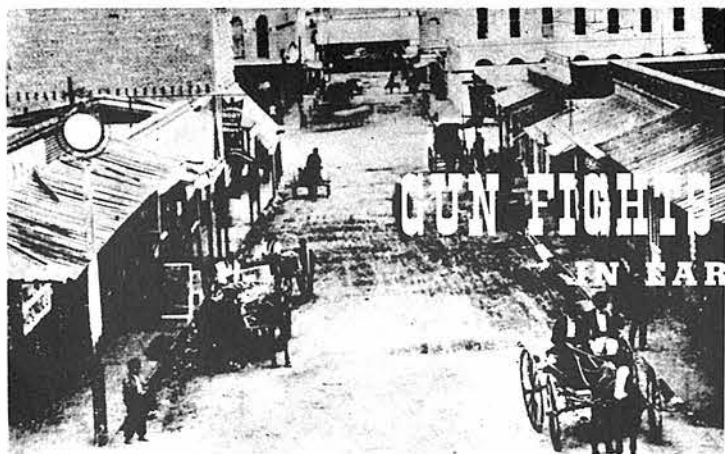
## DOWN THE BOOK TRAIL

WHEW!!!: 6170 brand-new titles, not counting reprints published in 1946; 306 were history . . . GENE RHODES: From Carl Herzog's typorium comes *The Little World Waddies*—most of it hasn't been in book form before. First edition limited to 1000 copies. Gene's widow to get 70% of profits. A new catalogue calls for *Lone War Trail of Apache Kid* by Earle Forrest and Edwin Hill, and another Con Price *Trails I Rode*. Both are due late this month. They'll each have a new Russell reproduction . . . CUSTER story again in print (Scribner's) this time by last survivor of the fight (Sergeant Windolph) in volume called *I Fought with Custer*. Announced for publication February 10th . . . WESTERN AMERICANA: General title of a series of new editions of outstanding books on California and Far West to be published by Knopf. Editors will be Dr. Robert Glass Cleland and Oscar Lewis. First volume, *The Big Bonanza* by Dan DeQuille (Wm. Wright) will be ready sometime in March.

. . . COLORADO: The dramatic contrast between the Colorado boom towns of yesterday and their ghost-like appearance of today will appear in the American Guide Series *Colorado Ghost Towns*, scheduled for April publication . . . *Sonora Sketch Book*, by John Hilton, will find favor with those interested in the legends and people of that Mexican state just south of Arizona. It will be ready in March . . . OKLAHOMA University Press forecasts several intriguing titles to tease and lead astray our Western collectors. One is a comprehensive bibliography of source material related to southwestern history from the beginning of settlement to 1939. It has been in preparation for 25 years and will include 4000 individual titles. *South of Forty, from the Mississippi to the Rio Grande*, by Jesse L. Rader, will be the title and author and it will be released this spring . . . CALIFORNIA *Engineer and Rancher*, a biography of Frank Hinckley (1838-1890) is a new volume from the Saunders Press in Claremont. It includes some unpub-

(Continued on page 30)





# GUN FIGHTS & LYNCHINGS IN EARLY LOS ANGELES

BY GREGG LANE

UNTIL THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD by James Marshall at Sutter's Mill on the American River in 1848, Los Angeles was California's largest

settlement and its only city. Founded in 1781, Los Angeles early established a name for crime and lawlessness and by the year 1842 its infamy was heralded to the world by Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, who made a tour of the world and in that year published the narrative of his travels, in two thick volumes. He came down the Pacific Coast and visited Yerba Buena, Monterey, and Santa Barbara, but passed by wicked Los Angeles and gave this description of the city in his now famous book:

*"The Pueblo of Los Angeles contains a population of one thousand five hundred souls—and is the noted abode of the lowest drunkards and gamblers of the country. This den of thieves is situated, as one may expect from its being almost twice as populous as the other two pueblos taken together, in one of the loveliest and most fertile districts of California, and is therefore, one of the best marts in the province for hides and tallow and induces vessels to brave all the dangers of the open and exposed Bay of San Pedro."*

However, when matters got too bad for the decent element of the community to tolerate, they took the enforcement of the law into their own hands and acted with definite promptness when the "law" moved too slowly to suit them.

## CALIFORNIA'S FIRST VIGILANCE COMMITTEE

To the Californian of today, "Vigilance Committee" and "San Francisco" are synonymous, for the average resident of the state doesn't know that fifteen years before the first Vigilance Committee of San Francisco was organized, the first Vigilance Committee in California was formed, functioned successfully and disbanded quietly in the City of Los Angeles.

Don Domingo Feliz, who lived on the rancho bearing his name, just north of the town, was married to vivacious Maria del Rosario Villa, who had abandoned her husband and was living with a Sonoran *vaquero* by the name of Gervasio Alipas at San Gabriel. After trying for two years to persuade Maria to return to him, for he still loved the girl, Feliz invoked the aid of the authorities and the Church to the effect that on March 24th, 1836, the errant wife was brought back to the pueblo and a reconciliation was effected through mutual friends. The angry Alipas threatened vengeance for the loss of his mistress when the

**GUN FIGHTS** reconciled couple started up the river for their home on the rancho, mounted on one horse as was the custom in old California.

The couple had traveled but a short distance when they were ambushed by Alipas, who stabbed Feliz in the back, killing him. Then the murderer and the faithless wife dragged the body into a ravine with a reata and covered it with leaves.

On March 29th the body was found and both the murderer and the woman were arrested in San Gabriel, where they were again enjoying their infamous pleasures. Excitement ran high in the little city, both on account of the foulness of the crime and the high esteem in which the murdered husband was held, when they were brought back.

By the 1st of April feeling was running so high that the authorities asked all good citizens to aid in preserving the peace—but after a week had passed and no punishment had been meted out to the couple, fifty of the town's most prominent men met at the home of Don Juan Temple at daybreak on the morning of April the 7th and organized "A Committee of Defense and Public Security." At 2 o'clock in the afternoon a demand was made on the *Ayuntamiento* by the Committee that the prisoners be delivered to them within an hour. But *Alcalde* Requena and the *Ayuntamiento* paid no attention to their demand, so half an hour later the band of armed citizens marched out in front of the Public Hall and jail, and at 3 o'clock notified the *Alcalde* that their hour had terminated. The secretary of the *Ayuntamiento*, Narciso Botello, refused to give up the keys to the jail, so they were taken from him with but little resistance on his part.

The prisoners were taken from the jail and shot—Alipas at 4 o'clock and the woman a half hour later. The Committee had acted none too soon, for it was found that Alipas had his shackles almost filed off.

In true Vigilance Committee style the bodies were exposed at the jail door for two hours and then turned over to the town authorities for their disposal. Then, their work over, and after offering their services to the *Alcalde* to aid in preserving law and order, the group of fifty of the best citizens of Los Angeles quietly disbanded.

The effect on the criminal element of the town was most quieting and order was observed for some time in the usually wild Pueblo.

## THE OLD TOWN'S ONLY RECORDED DUEL

In 1850 Colonel J. Bankhead Magruder was the Military Commandant of the southern district of California with headquarters at San Diego. The Colonel, a man of imposing appearance, being over six feet in height, of full military bearing, was a congenial soul and when the lonesomeness of San Diego became unbearable he would hie himself to the City of the Angels to raise "whoopee," which he could do in the most approved style. When Colonel Magruder came to town the sky was the limit in little old Los Angeles.

The Colonel often decried to his friends that it was a shame there was no decent

**& LYNCHINGS** American saloon in this town of grog shops, and at last decided to remedy this terrible condition, thereby becoming an originator of several "firsts" in the city's history. Milled lumber was brought from Maine, around the Horn, and upon its arrival was put together and erected as a two-story building on the lot back of the tiled-roof home of Jose Antonio Carrillo, the site of the old Pico House, still standing.

This building, erected in 1851, was the first wooden building to be erected in Los Angeles, which heretofore had known only adobe in its construction. This was, of course, also the first American saloon, and in 1853 became the first protestant church when Rev. Adam Bland bought it and there established the First Methodist Church.

But Magruder was also to become a principal in another "first" in Los Angeles history—its first and only recorded duel. In the fall of 1852, upon one of his "rest" visits to the city, the convivial Colonel threw an uproarious party at Harry Monroe's restaurant on Commercial Street, then the principal American business street.

After a sumptuous repast had been partaken and much wine of rare vintage had "overflowed," the topic of conversation among the leading business and professional men of the town, gathered at the board, drifted to the subject of "the greatest American." Colonel Magruder claimed that honor for Andrew Jackson, while Colonel J. O. Wheeler, the city's leading publisher, drank to "Henry Clay, the greatest American Statesman." Thompson Burrell, esteemed Sheriff, made his toast to "Daniel Webster, the greatest man the world ever produced." This was too much for one of the revelers, Dr. William B. Osburn, our Postmaster, our Head of Board of Education, our first druggist, and a Deputy Sheriff. Dr. Osburn was a little man, but important, and at present somewhat inebriated—so, with his cargo of wine, he rose unsteadily to his feet and proclaimed, "My father, who was Sheriff of Cayuga County, New York, was the greatest of all Americans." This declaration was more than the doughty Colonel could stand and he vehemently replied—"Doctor, you are a damn fool."

No gentleman, and particularly none in Dr. Osburn's frame of mind, could stand such a retort, so he immediately challenged the Colonel to a duel! The challenge was at once accepted—the combat to take place on the spot. Seconds were chosen, the weapons were to be pistols, and the distance from end to end of the banquet table. The principals took their places, with instructions that they were to draw at the count of one, to aim at two and to fire at the count of three. Then the little doctor began to feel that he was being taken advantage of on account of the difference in size between himself and his mighty adversary, so when the count of two was made he blazed away at Magruder, only to be amazed that the gigantic officer still stood, firm and full of life even though it seemed to the Doctor he could have sworn he had seen the bullet from his pistol strike the Colonel's broad chest. The Colonel held his fire, but took a step to the right, cleared the table, and with pistol aimed at Osburn, advanced slowly toward the far end of the table. By this time poor Dr. Osburn was chalk white, his brain cleared of its fire, and without ceremony,

**GUN FIGHTS** threw himself at the Colonel's knees crying, "For God's sake Colonel spare me for my wife and family!" The Colonel replied in disgust, "Osburn you *are* a fool!" And it was then revealed that the pistols were loaded only with powder and corks.

Dr. Osburn was, however, an important man in the community, and well thought of by all who knew him. Besides holding several offices of importance at one time, the Doctor was a politician of no mean ability, and on more than one instance his weight threw an election. He had come to California with the famous Stevenson's Regiment in 1847, and when the regiment was mustered out in Los Angeles he stayed on to become its "most useful citizen," as Horace Bell tells us.

## **THE AMBUSH OF SHERIFF BARTON'S POSSE**

In January, 1857, one of the outstanding events of criminal annals of Los Angeles took place, and while the crime took place outside of the city it should be mentioned, as it was the cause of the greatest clean-up among the many criminals who infested Southern California, that history has recorded.

An escaped convict, Juan Flores, with his confederates, murdered a storekeeper at San Juan Capistrano, which was then in Los Angeles County. Upon word reaching Sheriff James Barton, who was already looking for Flores, a posse was formed in Los Angeles and the Sheriff with his five deputies headed for the little mission town seventy miles to the south. The posse stopped at the San Joaquin Ranch of Don Jose Sepulveda, a few miles beyond Santa Ana and were given their breakfast. While eating they stacked their arms outside the room. After breakfast they picked up their rifles and proceeded toward Capistrano. A short distance from the ranch-house they were ambushed by the criminals for whom they were hunting and the Sheriff and three of his men were shot down. It was quite evident that some servant at the ranch had unloaded the posse's guns while they were eating, as they were useless at the ambush.

The two men who escaped headed for Los Angeles, and fortunately, having swifter horses than the convicts, were able to make their getaway. When they reached the city, where Barton was an idol, a second large posse was formed by the angry citizens, headed by no less a man than General Andres Pico, who had become an exemplary citizen of his adopted country, and the greatest manhunt in the history of California was on. Juan Flores was captured, escaped, and later recaptured and hung, about a month after his murder of Sheriff Barton.

But Flores' hanging did not stop this angry group of citizens, for they kept on the trail of the bandits and their followers, which had grown to quite a group, until the last man was run down; the last member of the gang being Pancho Daniel, Flores' right bower, who was not caught until a year after the famous ambush. During that year, though, fifty-two criminals were caught, and eleven of them hung. The details of this

## **& LYNCHINGS**

great manhunt are too many and the story is too long for this paper, but it could provide matter for an evening's talk by itself.

### **THE LAST CALIFORNIA VIGILANCE COMMITTEE**

On November 15, 1862, an honest miner by the name of Hester was brutally murdered just outside the limits of Los Angeles, by a well-known ruffian, Boston Daimwood. Daimwood was aided by three notorious criminals, Chase, Ybarra and Olivas, who kept onlookers from aiding the unfortunate miner. It was a case of the most extreme brutality.

Again, little old Los Angeles seethed with anger and the murderers were soon captured and lodged in jail. But now the townspeople gathered, two hundred strong, forced the jail and brought the four guilty men out on Spring Street in front of the city hall which stood at the corner of Spring and Franklin Streets. This old adobe building had the usual ramada, in front, covering the sidewalk. This ramada was supported by six wooden posts, making five apertures, most admirable spaces for lynching non-desirable characters. So the four criminals were strung up in four of these spaces. This left one empty space that threw the whole picture out of line. There was one lone boy left in the jail, a lad of eighteen, who had been arrested for chicken-stealing. The mob surged into the jail again, and brought out the poor boy, whose name was Wood, to fill the open space. The boy in typical boyish bravado was most cooperative, even to the point of helping place the packing-box he was to stand upon, and then, jumped up upon it, declaring that he was "a game chicken," and was ready to take his punishment. The picture, now complete, the quickly formed committee of vengeful citizens as quickly disbanded, leaving their victims for the legal authorities to cut down. And so ended the last Vigilance Committee of California, six years after the last San Francisco Vigilance Committee of 1856.

### **THE KING-CARLISLE BATTLE**

For many years after the American occupation of California, Los Angeles had its "man for breakfast" as the morning report of the almost nightly murder was called, but for the most part these murders, or deaths from drunken fights, were among the lower classes that had drifted in on the tide of immigration from the states, Mexico, or the backwash from the gold fields. Occasionally, however, a death occurred among the better class, following as a rule, some hot-headed argument. Such was the case in the most outstanding gun-battle to take place in Los Angeles—the King-Carlisle Battle.

On July 5, 1865, a banquet and ball were given in the upper rooms of the famous Bella Union Hotel, then the finest in the town, in honor of a bride and groom, who had been married earlier in the day. The elite of the city were guests, and among them were Andrew J. King and his wife. King was Under-Sheriff, and later became one of the



## **GUN FIGHTS**

County's leading judges of superior court. As was the custom, during the ball, King went down to the bar on the lower floor and while there got into an argument with another guest, Robert Carlisle, owner of the great Rancho Chino, over the outcome of a murder case, recently tried, where the victim had been the brother-in-law of Carlisle. One word led to another and Carlisle stabbed the Under-Sheriff. The combatants were parted and King was taken home to recover. Carlisle, however, made the boast that he would kill the whole King tribe, which included the Under-Sheriff's two brothers, Houston and Frank.

The King family were Texans, and such a threat could not go by unnoticed, so the next morning after Houston and Frank had heard of Carlisle's threat they decided to find out if Carlisle would attempt to make it good. They headed for the Bella Union, and when they had reached the opposite side of the street, Carlisle came to the door of the barroom and opened fire on the brothers. Frank King at once returned the fire, emptying his revolver, but Houston held his fire and advanced with Frank toward the door. All this time Carlisle was firing from the door, but shielded by the thick adobe wall. Houston King made a jump for the door, but Carlisle fired and shot him through the lungs, the bullet going clear through his body. Falling to the floor, and to all appearances mortally wounded, Houston, now unable to lift his right arm, flipped up his revolver and placed four bullets in Carlisle's abdomen, and at the same time Frank King beat Carlisle over the head with his empty gun. Carlisle was through, though the tale is told that he staggered to his feet and with his last shot killed Frank King. Eyewitnesses, however, say that such was not the case, and that a friend of Carlisle came in at the back of the barroom and shot Frank, killing him immediately. Carlisle was dead, Frank King was dead, and Houston King, upon his recovery, was tried for the murder of Carlisle and exonerated. The greatest street battle of Los Angeles was finished.

But there was an aftermath to this fight. An old King family custom was to kill anyone who killed a King, so Houston King, when he recovered, tracked down the murderer of his brother Frank, though the trail carried him far away from California, and avenged his death. Houston King's son, Frank M. King, has come back to Los Angeles to live and is not only an old cowboy, having worked cattle all over the southwest, but is the author of several mighty fine books on the cattle trade and Pioneer times in California, New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. He is now writing two columns, regularly, for the *Western Live Stock Journal of Los Angeles*, that bring more flavor of the old west to mind than anything that transpires on the coast today.

## **A DEPUTY SHOTS HIS MARSHAL**

In 1870, William Crossman Warren, grandfather of our popular and well-loved Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz, was City Marshal of Los Angeles. He had for his Deputy Joe Dye, a hot-headed Southerner, known for his many turbulent broils. A Chinese woman

**& LYNCHINGS** had run away from her master, had been caught and returned. The reward was to be paid, and in the courtroom Warren and Dye became mixed up in an argument as to the division of the money. The Marshal left the court and was followed outside by Dye, who shot and killed him at Spring and Temple Streets, not far from the court. This happened on October 31st, 1870. Through political string-pulling Dye was freed, though Billy Warren was one of the most popular peace officers that had ever held office in the old town. From this time on, for twenty years, Dye led a turbulent life, committing one or two more murders, but fate and the law of averages eventually caught up with him. In 1891 Dye and his cousin, Nate Bradfield, quarreled over an oil deal they were mutually interested in and Dye threatened to kill Bradfield. Bradfield, knowing Dye's reputation, knew that he had no chance with him in an open fight, so with a shotgun he took his stand in an upper window of the old White House at the corner of Commercial and Los Angeles to wait for Dye, who he knew passed from the depot, then at Alameda and Commercial Streets, to his office at a certain time each day. When Dye passed that day, May 14, 1891, Bradfield opened fire with both barrels and Joe Dye passed to the great beyond. Bradfield was cleared on self-defense, since Dye's record was well-known, and he had become not too popular in the land of his bullying. So ends my story of *Gun Fights and Lynchings* on the streets of old Los Angeles; not a happy story, but part of our history nevertheless.



The old *Bella Union Hotel*, scene of the King-Carlisle gun battle as it looked at the time



Judge Andrew J. King

Lynching of five men by California's last Vigilance Committee in Los Angeles, in 1862





# THE CUSTER FIGHT

BY ERNEST V. SUTTON

NO SINGLE INCIDENT IN OUR NATIONAL HISTORY has been the cause of so prolonged and acrimonious debate as has the Custer Fight on the Little Big Horn or Greasy Grass River in Montana, June 25th,

1876. This has not been because of the number of troops involved nor the list of casualties, but for a combination of reasons, many of them in no way connected with the actual battle.

The Civil War was over and the nation was gradually recovering from the struggle, when a financial upheaval threw the country into a panic. Following this came the news of Custer's defeat, unfortunately on July 4th, exactly one hundred years to a day after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Centennial Exhibition was in progress at Philadelphia and the people were looking forward, as they are today, to a period of peace and prosperity. Amplifying this tragedy were the jealousies and hatreds engendered by assignments and promotions, after the Civil War, considered by many officers as unjust and showing favoritism. Besides, there was the personality of Custer, which entered largely into the controversy.

There can be no question as to Custer's ability or courage, because from the first battle of Bull Run until the close of the war he served with distinction, rising to Major General before he was twenty-eight. Yet had it not been for this war he possibly might never have been heard of in a military way. At the time his class graduated he was under restraint for insubordination, as he had been many times before, and only through intercession of classmates was he given his commission.

From all accounts Custer was domineering, wilful and utterly unmindful of the feelings, ambitions and rights of officers under him. In addition to his "luck," about which he bragged, he was an opportunist, never missing a chance to advance his own cause. As is often the case with spectacular leaders, the rank and file admired him for his dash and show, while civilians, as a rule, considered him a hero.

From the very first landings on the Atlantic Coast it had been the policy to treat with the Indians as a sovereign nation, making treaties whenever conditions became intolerable. No doubt, at the time of signing, it was the intention to abide by them, but in reality these treaties were ones of expediency, intended to postpone rather than settle the differences. But as the white population increased and further encroached upon the Indian domain, other treaties were made. For nearly four hundred years this method of dealing with the original owners of the land continued until in 1868, under pressure from humanitarians, the government called for the making of a final treaty; one that could be kept.

To avoid the appearance of selfish interests, a commission composed of army officers

## **THE CUSTER FIGHT**

was appointed. At this conference the Indians were given complete control over an area extending from the North Platte River in Nebraska up to the Canadian border and from the Rocky Mountains east as far as the Missouri River. All forts and the Bozeman Trail within this area were to be abandoned and trespass forbidden without Indian sanction. This treaty was signed in good faith by all parties concerned and was known as the Treaty of 1868. Once more the country was at peace.

In early 1874 it was rumored that gold had been found in the Indian country of the Black Hills, and prospectors began flocking there without asking for or receiving the Indians' permission. General Custer was dispatched with an armed force to investigate and make a report. When he announced gold was actually there and in large quantities a mad rush was made for this new el dorado. A feeble attempt was made by the government to stop the stampede, but to no avail.

The Indians construed this as a deliberate breaking of the treaty and began making war on these intruders. Conditions gradually grew worse until in 1875 another commission, mostly politicians, was chosen to negotiate another treaty or buy the Black Hills outright. The Indians knew something of the value of this new gold discovery and insisted they be given the income from \$70,000,000 for seven generations, but instead were offered \$6,000,000, which they refused. There being no chance of arriving at a satisfactory solution, the negotiations were broken off and the commission recommended the Indians be brought back to the reservations by force and the matter settled later.

For many years Red Cloud had been the outstanding Sioux Chief and had made a brave fight for justice, but now he was getting old and younger men took his place, among them Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull. Crazy Horse was a Chief, capable, brave and efficient. Later he was murdered in cold blood at Fort Robinson while under arrest. Sitting Bull was an Oglala born on Willow Creek in 1837, and was about 40 years old at the time. He was not a Chief, but rather a "Medicine Man" or councilor, politician, and the original isolationist. He hated the whites with a bitterness born of constant brooding over the wrongs visited upon his people, and was partly responsible for the failure to arrive at a satisfactory understanding with the commission.

By some writers Sitting Bull is given more credit than he deserves, especially in winning the battle of the Little Big Horn. He was not in good standing with the real leaders at the time, and so far as actual facts go, did not take an active part in the fight.

When the report of the commission was made public the Indians began leaving the reservations and heading north to hold a "Medicine Lodge" with their allies, the Northern Cheyennes in the Big Horn Mountains. In December, 1875, General Terry, a Civil War veteran with a good record, but with no experience in Indian warfare, issued an order demanding the Indians return to the reservations by January first or they would be treated as hostiles.

While the campaign was being planned, Custer was in Washington as a witness in

## THE CUSTER FIGHT

the Belknap impeachment case, and the testimony he gave, and the manner in which he gave it, so incensed President Grant that he issued an order forbidding Custer taking any part in the coming war. This order was later modified at the personal solicitation of both General Terry and General Sheridan, allowing Custer to accompany the expedition as a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Seventh Cavalry.

As so often had happened in the past, Custer's luck came to his rescue. Colonel Sturgis was unable to go, thus leaving Custer in command, but Lieutenant Sturgis, son of the Colonel, did go and was killed, making the father one more enemy for Custer. While the campaign had been carefully planned, something went wrong. Crook coming up from the Tongue River, under the guidance of a guide named Grouard, had fourteen hundred men and, had he not been defeated by Crazy Horse the outcome might have been different; as it was, he was driven back to his base and took no part in the main battle.

Frank Grouard's mother was a South Sea Islander, his father a white man, but his dark features gave him the appearance of a "breed." As a boy he had been captured by The Gaul, later in command of the Sioux forces at the Custer fight. Sitting Bull saved his life and he lived for several years in Sitting Bull's home where he learned the language and later became a guide and interpreter. The fact that he was now leading the army against his adopted people may have had something to do with the feeling against Sitting Bull. Again, this same Grouard later misquoted a message in translating which was indirectly responsible for the killing of Crazy Horse.

Terry with his forces left Fort Lincoln, near Mandan on the steamer *Far West*, captained by a man named Marsh, going up the Missouri to the Yellowstone and up this river to the mouth of the Tongue River where headquarters were established. Here a conference was held between Gibbon, Custer and Terry and plans for the attack were made. Meantime Reno had returned from a scouting expedition and reported the discovery of a trail indicating the recent passage of a large body of Indians, evidently headed for the Little Big Horn or the Rosebud.

At this meeting Custer was given written orders covering his actions in locating the Indians. These were explicit insofar as it was possible to direct, but verbal orders gave him the option of using his own judgment in emergency. These orders, both written and verbal, have furnished material for the greatest argument throughout the years. There is no question that the spirit of the order was ignored, but technically Custer was within his rights. He undoubtedly had in mind, from the start, that here was a chance to redeem his fallen fortunes, and had he won he would have been one of the greatest heroes of all time.

The distance from headquarters to the field of battle was about ninety miles and he was given four days to make this and then be joined by Gibbon and Terry. At the time the best information had was that not over two thousand Indians were away from the reservation, but in reality the number was many times that. From Indian sources later learned, the camp on the Little Big Horn comprised seven or eight thousand, two



## **THE CUSTER FIGHT**

thousand of them warriors. While the Crown scouts had warned Custer that the Indians in this camp "were like the grass" indicating a huge number, he was sure they could be handled as he had done at the Wacheta with Black Kettle's Band of Cheyennes in 1868.

When he left Terry's headquarters with six hundred men under his command, Custer must have had some idea of what he intended doing, because he not only refused five troops of the Second Cavalry but also Gatling guns; they would slow down his march. He wanted the Seventh Cavalry to have all the glory.

It was a bright, sunny peaceful Sunday morning that June day when Custer first looked down into the valley of the Little Big Horn, the glistening river with the tops of only a few tepees showing above the trees on the opposite bank. It was a perfect setting for his dream of conquest. It is only charitable to believe he was sure of victory, influenced no doubt by the cloud under which he had been for some time, as well as what it would mean to his future.

Behind the trees, and out of sight, he could not see the vast village of Sioux under The Gaul and Crazy Horse and the Cheyennes led by Two Moons swelling the numbers far beyond all reports. Sitting Bull with his following of Uncpapas was in camp near the river away from the others. Neither did he know they were waiting for the attack, because the element of surprise had been removed when scouts reported the advance.

Dividing his forces (another subject for discussion later), Benteen was sent far to the left with instructions to circle back and strike the Indian camp from the rear. Reno was to go straight ahead, cross the river and engage the enemy at the lower end of the village, while Custer circled to the right, coming down at the far end of the camp. It was a perfect plan, but something went wrong.

From where he stood, the point of his attack was in plain sight barely three miles away, but he didn't know at the time he would be compelled to travel more than ten miles to reach this objective. Meantime, Benteen had become involved in hills and water courses, making progress slow, and when he heard the firing from Reno's attack, stopped and turned back to his assistance.

Reno was having a bad time because when he saw the force of the enemy he was not only surprised at their numbers but in the way they entered the fight. He was immediately put on the defensive and almost surrounded. Men were falling all around him and he soon realized his only safety was in retreat to the hill from where he had started.

When Captain Benteen came up he showed Major Reno the message he had just received from Custer; he wanted his superior officer to decide what should be done. This famous message, the last Custer ever wrote, read as follows:

"Benteen, come on. Big Village. Be quick. Bring packs. P.S. Bring packs."

The language was plain. Benteen knew what was meant by "packs." It meant ammunition, but he had made no effort to go to Custer's aid, although he knew that of his own pack

## THE CUSTER FIGHT

mules each was loaded with 2,000 rounds of rifle ammunition. Reno was hysterical, some said drunk; this may not have been the case, but he was in no condition to give thought to anything other than his own safety.

It was now middle afternoon and the attack on Reno was slackening, while a concentrated attack was being made on Custer. Armed with Martin-Henry repeating rifles the Indians had the advantage because the Civil War carbines of the soldiers jammed after a few shots and besides, the range was shorter. The cavalry became clay pigeons to be knocked over at leisure.

About four o'clock the sound of volley firing was heard; it was a signal for help, but no order was given to send this help. Captain Weir and a few of his troop made a noble effort, but were driven back and no further attempt was made. One often wonders if the situation had been reversed what would Custer have done.

The sound of firing gradually grew less and less until at last it stopped altogether, and now the Indians resumed their attack on Reno. The men now began digging in the ground with spoons, tin cups and their hands, trying to entrench themselves and find protection from the deadly rifle fire. Even the horses were killed, their bodies used as an additional protection. That night some of the soldiers crawled down to the river, bringing water for the wounded and their famishing companions. The whole night long a steady fire was kept up by the Indians, and in the morning another attack was made, almost succeeding. Late in the afternoon the Indians were seen leaving their camp and heading north, for no apparent reason. The following morning a cloud of dust appeared and from it emerged the troops of Gibbon and Terry, but they were too late.

Court-martial trials were now in order and for a time held the public interest, but, as always happens, those alive were entitled to more consideration than the dead. Whitewash covered the cravens, leaving them only their innermost thoughts to condemn or console.

The Indians separated, the Cheyennes under Two Moons surrendering first. Crazy Horse and his followers put up a stiff fight but finally surrendered. Sitting Bull with his loyal Uncpapas left alone, struck out for Canada, but managed to get some more free advertising by writing notes to Generals Otis and Miles and even having an interview with Miles, but eventually reaching Canada. Here he continued to make medicine and keep before the public for some time, finally returning to the land of his birth.

Always stirring up trouble in regular agitator style, he identified himself with the Messiah Craze in 1888. While not active as a participant, he kept everlastingly at it, despite efforts of Agent McLaughlin at Standing Rock Agency to come in and have a talk. In 1890 Sitting Bull was living on Grand River near Fort Yates, and as had been the case in former years, he was something of an outcast among his own people. A number of Assinaboines were camped near, but few of his own people; he was an embittered old man still trying to keep his place in the sun.

Early in the morning of December 10, 1890, a group of Indian police, accompanied

## THE CUSTER FIGHT

by a company of soldiers came to make his arrest. Sitting Bull was wakened from his sleep and told he was to be taken to Fort Yates. He made no resistance until after taken outdoors and then chided by his son, Crow Foot, a boy seventeen years of age. He now called on his friends to come to his assistance and began to struggle. No one seems to know just what happened until Bull Head, one of the police, was shot by Strikes the Cloud. Placing his carbine against the stomach of Sitting Bull, Bull Head pulled the trigger and his prisoner fell, but not before being shot two more times by the police. Crawling into a small bush nearby Sitting Bull began urging his followers to fight on. He was finally hauled out from his hiding place and his head beaten in with a club. King Philip, Pontiac and Sitting Bull all died at the hands of their own people.

Sitting Bull was secretly buried in the agency cemetery at Standing Rock, while the Indians killed in the fight were buried with military honors in the cemetery at Fort Yates.

Twenty days after Sitting Bull's death the final chapter of Indian warfare was enacted at Wounded Knee Creek near the Pine Ridge Agency. More than three hundred Indian men, women and children were brutally murdered by government troops and buried in one long, deep trench. A more enlightened even if ruthless civilization now ruled the land.



Marker at place where Col. Keogh fell



Burial of Indians at Wounded Knee



Sitting Bull at the time of his death

View of Ghost Dance



Two Moons, Cheyenne leader, in battle



## BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF LOS ANGELES WESTERNERS

So that each member may be more readily identified as to his interests the Brand Book is giving a sketchy bit of the background of each individual.

NOAH BEERY, JR. (Van Nuys)—Noah is a Russell fan and bibliophile, and has surrounded himself with horses and things reminiscent of early Spanish California, even to his hacienda.

COL. C. B. BENTON (Hollywood)—served years in the American and British armies. The Colonel has a broad interest in the West, the work of Borein and Russell, cowboy lore, books and Western art in general.

HOMER BOELTER (Los Angeles)—Lithographer and creator of fine printing. Homer's particular hobbies are photography and the desert country of the Southwest, though anything Western intrigues him.

WILL BREWER (Los Angeles)—Will formerly lived in the Windy City, but found his career as an artist (Indians and the Old West) could best be stimulated by locating in Southern California.

### DOWN THE BOOK TRAIL

(Continued from page 2)

lished excerpts from diaries and letters ... *Maverick Town*, by John L. McCarty, sold out 6500 copies in six weeks because of author's contacts in small Texas towns. In one town he actually tried selling books on the street—result 300 copies sold . . . VISAGE of America Series to include *San Francisco Bay Cities*, by Josef Muench and foreword by Joseph Henry Jackson. A great photographer captures the spirit of varied life of the Bay cities . . . CALIFORNIA, *an Intimate Guide*, by Aubrey Drury, is again available in a new revised edition . . . SERIES seem to be popular these days. *The Great Salt Lake*, by Dale L. Morgan, will be a popular title in the American Lake Series of Bobbs-Merrill . . . MONTANA *Margins*, edited by Joseph K. Howard, is the best of the many regional anthologies recently published. It's a Yale University Press book. They also list *Trail to California*, edited by David M. Potter . . . DRAKE: *Francis Drake and the Californian Indians*, by Robert F. Heizer, will present new evidence on Drake's anchorage in California in the March number, California University Publication in American Archaeology and Ethnology, Vol. 42 No. 3.

E. A. BRININSTOOL (Los Angeles). Brin has a long list of accomplishments to his credit—newspaper and magazine writing, collector extraordinary of all things Western and an author of many studious books on Western subjects. He is one of the country's experts on the Custer Battle.

H. E. BRITZMAN (Pasadena)—Britz admits of his ignorance, and maintains that his chief interest in seeing the founding of *The Westerners* here was his desire to study at the feet of all the real students that infest our local corral.

LINDLEY BYNUM (Pasadena)—is a native son of Los Angeles. For many years he was Field Representative for the great Huntington Library. He is now on the staff of the University of California at Los Angeles and the Bancroft Library at Berkeley.

EDGAR N. CARTER (South Pasadena)—is the son of Judge W. A. Carter, one time Post Sutler at Fort Bridger, Wyoming. Carter, one of the first white children born in Wyoming, comes naturally by his love of the Old West and its traditions and history.

GLEN DAWSON (Pasadena)—is a native son of California and has lived here all his life. Glen is one of the partners in Dawson's book shop. His western interests are, early Los Angeles imprints, examples of western printing and bibliographies of Americana.

CLARENCE ELLSWORTH (Hollywood)—Western artist. Born in a sod house on the plains of Nebraska, Clarence has worked for the Denver newspapers, *Outdoor Life Magazine*, and has illustrated many books. He lived years among the Sioux Indians and paints them with fidelity.

GEORGE E. FULLERTON (Glendale)—is a native of California. He is interested in Western History and has an excellent Library of Western Americana, being particularly interested in Californiana.

PAUL GALLEHER (Glendale)—Paul is an authority on Western books and publications, having been for 26 years with the respected firm of Arthur H. Clark—formerly of Cleveland, Ohio, now Glendale, California.

JOHN B. GOODMAN (Beverly Hills)—was born in Denver, Colorado. His Western interest is the collection of books pertaining to early California and overland material, specializing in rarities.

ROBERT A. GRIFFEN (Reno, Nevada)—is our first corresponding member. His *Quarter Circle 7* ranch is near Lovelock, Nevada. Griffen is an ardent student of the West and does excellent pen and ink sketches as a hobby.

JACK HARDEN (Brentwood)—Harden's Western interests encompass many phases, but he is especially interested in Charles M. Russell, early California history and horses.

NEAL HARLOW (Los Angeles)—began life in Indiana. He is in charge of special collections in the Library of the University of California at Los Angeles. Neal is now engaged on a map book of the San Francisco region.

DON HILL (Sherman Oaks)—was born in West Virginia, but is a true Westerner. The works of Charley Russell, Remington and other Western artists are sought after by Don, particularly when the scenes are laid in the Upper Missouri and Yellowstone basins.

M. MARTIN JOHNSON (Burbank)—our only original member of the original Chicago Corral of *Westerners*. He is a commercial artist of national reputation and an avid Westerner whose particular interest is in the old trails.

J. GREGG LANE (West Los Angeles)—was born at Huntington, West Virginia. He is intensely interested in Western Americana and owns one of the largest private libraries on the subject.

W. W. ROBINSON (Los Angeles)—author and historian, was born in "Uncle Dick" Wooten's part of Colorado, Trinidad. Among his books are *Ranchos Become Cities*, *The Story of Pershing Square*, *What They Say About The Angels*, *The Forest and The People* and *The Story of Catalina*.

JOHN K. ROLLINSON (Altadena)—retired cowman, rancher and author. Jack, as his friends call him, is intensely interested in all things Western, and has a fine collection of Colts six-shooters and Derringers.

JACK SAHR (North Hollywood). Doc is a cowman bred in the saddle. He rode as a rodeo contestant and as a cattle buyer for years and his interest in the old West is deep seated—from the saddle up.

ERNEST V. SUTTON (South Pasadena)—was born in Ohio. When he was fifteen, the family lived not far from the Custer battlefield, incidents of which he remembers well. His chief interest is the Indians of the Western United States. He has a collection of several thousand hand-colored slides on this subject.

ROBERT J. WOODS (Los Angeles)—was born at Miles City, Montana. His chief interest is in the collection of Californiana and material relating to Lewis and Clark, the overland trail and the cattle industry.

ALBERT ARTHUR WOODWARD (Los Angeles)—was born in Iowa and moved to California, like many another *Westerner*. Since 1928, Arthur has been director of History and Anthropology in the Los Angeles County Museum of History, Science and Art. His *Lances at San Pasqual* is appearing in two current numbers of the California Historical Society Quarterly.

CHARLES YALE (Pasadena)—Charlie has practically grown up in the book business—with special emphasis on Western books. His enthusiasm is so profound that his son is following in his footsteps.



MARCH, 1948

LOS ANGELES CORRAL

MARCH, 1948



ROScoe P. CONKLING

## THE BUTTERFIELD ROUTE

The first meeting of the new year was well attended—all probably anxious to pay their dues. The Butterfield Overland Mail was the theme of the evening, and the Posse was privileged to hear the outstanding authority on the subject, Mr. Roscoe P. Conkling, discuss the mail route, the stations and personalities with special emphasis on the California route. Mr. Conkling's interest in the Butterfield was stimulated early in life by his grandfather who designed the famous "Celerity" coach and he spent more than twenty years of work and some 50,000 miles of travel in 13 states interviewing the oldest inhabitants in many communities. His "on the spot" investigations were supplemented by extensive research in the libraries and historical societies throughout the country.

His paper included among numerous interesting items, the fact that our Corral was located within a stones throw of the old Los Angeles station which stood on a 100 x 150 foot lot south of First and Spring Streets on land now occupied by the Los Angeles Times Building. This property was sold to Butterfield for \$600.00.

(Continued on page 3)

## FEBRUARY ROUND-UP HEARS GOLD RUSH STORY IN IMPRESSIVE MEETING

California's Gold Rush period, its swift expansion and its decline, its social and economic and political problems, and historians of the period were discussed at the February Round-Up when Professor Rodman Paul, California Institute of Technology, addressed the Westerners in the Redwood House.

"I think it's quite important," said Prof. Paul, "to see if you can set aside one period of time in California's history and say, 'That is the Gold Rush.'"

During the progress of his talk, Prof. Paul referred to statistical data concerning California's gold production in the period when it ballooned from a quarter-million dollars in 1848 to 81 million dollars in 1851.

"The gold rush period," he said, "was a time of wide spread optimism . . . a time of abnormal conditions . . . when the comforts of life were non-existent or too high in price . . . it's a time of confusion, when all sorts of people are coming into a new area . . . a time of disorganized society."

Prof. Paul traced the course of the Gold Rush period by various methods, one of which was a chart showing the average daily earnings of the gold miners drop from "20 in 1848 to \$3 in 1854 when California was stepping out of the Gold Rush era. He also described the various methods of mining, which began with easy processing under which any man, without great investment, could begin his operations, to the complex and heavily financed quartz mining which sounded the decline of small operators.

Most people, who participated in the Gold Rush, he said, were adventurous, and undoubtedly dissatisfied with their former way of life.

He pointed to his statistical data to show when the Gold Rush produced the greatest yields. When this yield petered out, he said, it meant the era had ended.

(Continued on page 3)



## THE 1948 PROGRAM

The happy thought came to your Sheriff that a little enlightenment on the program for this year might be of interest to all and sundry. This thought was so conveyed to your Deputy Sheriff, who somehow not yet quite clear to him found he was Program Chairman. With the startling realization of this and what was expected, your urbane and erubescant servant started to work as a number of members all to soon discovered.

The response to the questionnaires filled in at the last meeting was very gratifying as well as helpful and useful, and already an attempt is being made to obtain speakers for several of the suggested subjects.

For the first time this list sees the light of day, and it is hoped will stand throughout the year. With the exception of course for the months of September and October and if your Deputy does not turn up with some member from the ranks, or otherwise a speaker obtained by a member, these months might well find him on "leave of absence." The "Brass" is always happy to receive, and open for suggestions.

Hang on to your seats here we go —

January 15 . . . . . Roscoe P. Conkling  
"Butterfield Route to California"

February 19 . . . . . Charles Yale  
(Rodman Paul)  
"California Gold"

March 18 . . . . . Carl Dentzel  
"Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo  
U. S. Acquires the Southwest"

April 15 . . . . . Frank Schilling  
"Al Sieber, Chief of Apache Scouts"

May 20 . . . . . Dwight Franklin  
"Gun Toting in the Old West"

June 17 . . . . . H. H. Olson  
"Gold in Placerita Canyon and other facts"

July 15 . . . . . Ernest Sutton  
"The Sun Clan of the Hopi Indians"

August 19 . . . . . Jack Sahr  
"Shady Ladies of the West"

September 16 . . . . .

October 21 . . . . .

November 18 . . . . . J. Gregg Layne  
"Fremont—some little known facts"

December 16 . . . . . Dr. Homer K. Morgan  
"Charles Lummis"

## FEBRUARY MEETING

A total of 32 Westerners and their guests reported for the February 19 Round-Up at the Redwood House, when Prof. Rodman Paul, California Institute of Technology, spoke on "California Gold." A new innovation of this meeting was launched by Sheriff Paul Galleher when he called for each man present to stand up and introduce himself.

The BRAND BOOKS were passed out at the conclusion of the meeting. Another new book, A LIFE WORTH LIVING, was greatly in evidence during the program, and Ernest Sutton and his pen were kept busy applying the author's autograph.

When three new members were introduced at the last Round-Up, they were introduced in the following sequence, with the following effects:

(1) Michael Harrison—(*Associate Member*)

It was explained by Colonel C. B. Benton that Harrison had spent 10 years with the U. S. Park Service, and 15½ years in the Indian Service, with the Pueblo Indians and the Indians of Northern California. Following Harrison's presentation, there was applause, and then came the next introduction:

(2) Marvin Miller—(*Regular Member*)

Colonel Benton explained that Miller was a "... real Westerner, born in the Dakotas, and one of the best typographers in Southern California."

Miller then stood up in acknowledgment of the introduction and the applause. Just as he got to his feet, Los Angeles experienced the earth tremor which shook houses clear from the coast at Santa Monica to East Los Angeles. After the excitement, Col. Benton made the final introduction:

(3) Paul Bailey—(*Regular Member*)

Bailey is a well-known author. He has written such well-known books as, "For This My Glory," "The Grey Saint," "Jacob Hamblin" (Soon to be released), and others.

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## THREE MISSES MEANS CANCELLED MEMBERSHIP

A reminder was sounded at the February 19 Westerners Round-Up that three consecutive absences from regular meetings without valid reasons will automatically place any member on an inactive status. Reason for this ruling is that there is a long waiting list of associate members who desire to join the Westerners and actively participate in the functions of the organization.

## SAY YOUR PRAYERS AND GET PREPARED TO BE "SHOT" THURSDAY

Come to the April 15 meeting in your store bought Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes. That's because you're going to be "shot," by a camera.

It is planned to run each man's picture in an early issue of THE BRANDING IRON. This will help others to connect his name and his face.

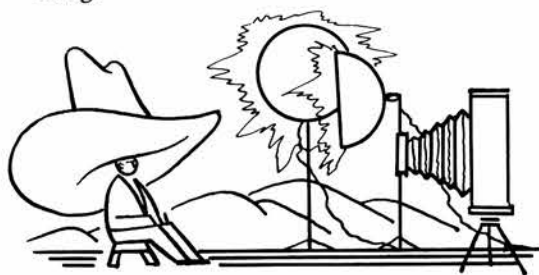
Plans for taking the pictures, as announced by the committee, are as follows:

(1) A charming, sweet, scenic, rustic, attractive background scene, typical of the old West, has been painted by Clarence Ellsworth.

(2) A stool will be placed in front of this background scene, and each Westerner will sit on the stool to be photographed.

(3) Lights will be set in place, and camera readied. It then becomes a matter of mass production. A man sits—the lights flash—shutters click—and someone says, "Next."

It will help if all Westerners will arrive a few minutes early. A full program has been planned, and the picture-taking will be done before eating.



## THE BUTTERFIELD ROUTE

(Continued from page 1)

On it in 1860 the company erected the largest and best equipped station on the route. Los Angeles was not included on the original itinerary of the Overland Mail. It was not until December 1858 that Los Angeles was officially made a time-table station.

One of the features of his presentation was a large map over 7 feet in height on which he had indicated all of the California stations. He carefully traced the route from Yuma to San Francisco stopping here and there to point out historical bits of information not generally known. Later during the discussion period, quite lively at times, Conkling debunked some of the heresay stories concerning station locations.

Conkling also brought out that his studies had convinced him that the stage line was a major factor in linking California to the Union. It was a fine event and started our new year with a feeling that membership in this organization was worthwhile.

## THIS PUBLICATION WILL SUBSTITUTE FOR FORMER MONTHLY BRAND BOOK

This is the first issue of THE BRANDING IRON. It was decided that this type of a monthly publication would be more desirable than the former monthly chapter of the Brand Book. There are several reasons why the change was made: Economy was one; Production was another. A third reason was duplication.

Under the new method, all Westerners still will receive a monthly publication but it will contain only condensations of the greater and more complete papers which will be published in the yearly BRAND BOOK.

## THE GOLD RUSH

(Continued from page 1)

### STATISTICAL DATE

#### 1. Comparative population:

	CALIFORNIA	OREGON
1848.....	14,000	10,000-12,000
1850.....	112,000	13,294
1860.....	379,994	52,465
1870.....	560,247	90,923
1940.....	6,907,387	1,089,684

#### 2. California gold: total seasonal product for the whole state, and average earnings per miner:

SEASON	TOTAL PRODUCT	AVERAGE EARNINGS
{ 1848.....	\$ 245,301	\$20
{ 1848-49....	10,151,360	16 (1849)
{ 1849-50....	41,273,106	10 (1850)
{ 1850-51....	75,938,232	8 (1851)
{ 1851-52....	81,294,700	6 (1852)
{ 1852-53....	67,613,487	5
{ 1854-55....	55,485,395	{ Stepping out of Gold era.
{ 1858-59....	45,846,599	3
{ 1861-62....	38,854,668	
{ 1864-65....	17,930,858	
{ 1874-75....	16,876,009	
{ 1884-85....	12,661,044	
{ 1894-95....	15,334,317	

Following the decline of the Gold Rush, California's economy gradually shifted to that of agriculture. As early as 1858, 23,000 people left California and sailed for Fraser River, British Columbia, and the discovery of the Comstock Lode attracted another great number of the people who chased the Golden Rainbow, permitting California to re-adjust more quickly and easily to the new economy of farming.

## DOWN THE BOOK TRAIL

By GLEN DAWSON

Spring publications by the Westerners already amount to an impressive shelf. First there is *The Westerners Brand Book, Los Angeles Corral*, 1947 containing more than 70 illustrations, bibliography, index, superbly produced by Homer H. Boelter. The end sheets are reproduced from an original print in the collection of Robert J. Woods. The Denver Posse has just issued their second volume *1946 Brand Book*, and also a reprint of the very scarce *1945 Brand Book*. The original Chicago group has also issued their second volume, so there are now five volumes of *Brand Books* with more in prospect. Each volume contains some twelve papers read at meetings, important contributions to the history, folklore and art of the west.

Orders for the Los Angeles Brand Book should go to Robert J. Woods, 320 South Manhattan Place, Los Angeles 5, California. The address for the Denver books is: The Westerners, Denver Posse, Room 306, State Museum Building, Denver 2, Colorado. The Chicago address is Mr. Burleigh Withers, 400 North Michigan, Chicago 11, Illinois.

The largest book yet published by Sheriff emeritus H. E. Britzman is *A Life Worth Living* by Ernest V. Sutton. It is a realistically written account of early days in Ohio, Dakota, Minnesota and California. The Clarence Ellsworth end papers reproduced in color are very fine.

Another book Westerners will want to read and own is *Wyoming Cattle Trails* by John K. Rollinson, edited by E. A. Brininstool. This contains a wealth of material on the migration of Oregon-raised herds to Mid-Western Markets. There are two editions, a trade edition and a special limited edition.

Sheriff Paul Galleher who originated "Down the Book Trail" has been long busy with a major project, the monumental *Butterfield Overland Mail 1857-1869*, by Roscoe P. Conkling and Margaret B. Conkling. The first volume and the atlas of maps and pictures are now ready and the second volume of text is expected very shortly.

Finally, mention should be made of the new book by our friend Lee Shippey, *It's an Old California Custom*.



## THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL OF 1864-1867

The Wilmington Journal, Los Angeles County, California, published from 1864 to 1867 was one of Southern California's more interesting newspapers, but only the incomplete file in the Bancroft Library, (University of California at Berkeley) is recorded in any public institution. William B. Rice in his book *The Los Angeles Star 1851-1864* tells how the Democratic *Star* was suspended, the last issue being October 1, 1864. The printing materials were removed to Wilmington where a new *Star* of administration politics is supposed to have been published. The name was soon changed to the *Wilmington Journal*.

The earliest issue in the Bancroft file is Volume I, No. 9 for January 14, which means that the first issue was probably November 11, 1864.

Phineas Banning was the owner of the *Journal* and the paper helped elect him to the legislature in 1865, however, the paper itself states "published every Saturday by A. A. Polhamus and Co." Harris Newmark refers to A. A. Polhamus as the workshop engineer in 1869 of the Los Angeles and San Pedro Railroad.

The *Journal* was very full in its news compared to most rural California newspapers of the period. The April 22, 1865 issue was printed with black borders as a memorial to the assassinated Abraham Lincoln. The May 6th issue reprints the funeral discourse of Rev. Elias Birdsall which was originally printed in the Los Angeles *News* of April 29th. There are two series of articles, neither of which are complete in the Bancroft file, one entitled, "Reminiscences of a Californian" and the other "Three Months in Lower California," by Gamma. This latter series started December 30, 1865 and continued at least until March 31, 1866.

Other especially interesting articles are an oil report (February 10, 1866) and a trip to Owens Valley, (May 26, 1866).

The *Journal* did not complete its third yearly volume. June 22, 1867 is the announcement of discontinuation with a recommendation of the Los Angeles *Weekly Republican*. However, a June 29 issue appeared published by the Journal Association. The last number in the Bancroft file is Volume III Number 42 for August 31, 1867. This issue and Number 41 were printed on very poor paper in contrast to the good quality of the rest of the file.

If any pamphlets were printed at Wilmington during this period, none are known to have survived.

GLEN DAWSON

# IN MEMORIAM

BY P. L. BONEBRAKE



JOHN K. ROLLINSON

valleys and the rocky canyons and was more at home on a horse than anywhere else. He naturally turned to the cattle business and for many years was active in that line of work, later becoming a United States Ranger and had a part in enforcing law and order in that then wild country.

His health failing, he came to California a few years ago and, until very lately, returned to Wyoming each summer, there to hunt up his old friends of the cow country, eat at the chuck wagon, sleep in his bed roll, and ride a good horse.

The last two years he was unable to make the trip, much to his regret. However, his disappointment was largely compensated by the pleasure he got out of his association with Los Angeles Corral of The Westerners and also the Chuck-Wagon Trailers, of which he was an officer. He was much interested in both organizations. I was frequently his guest at the gatherings of the westerners and I know how he looked forward to them. There he could meet and talk to the members, men who were interested in the history of the West as he was. He got much pleasure out of the meetings which meant more to him than any of us realized and added much to his life. He held in high esteem every "Westerner" and was proud to call them his friends.

He wrote "Pony Trails in Wyoming," more or less a biography of his own life. It is interesting, entertaining, and instructive. Written in the simple language of the cow-country, it gives a true picture of life as he found it at that time. His latest book, "*Wyoming Cattle Trails*" is just off the press. It is a splendid piece of work and gives the history of the cow-business from the beginning in Wyoming and is interspersed with stories of the old cow-men, many of whom are still living, who trailed cattle into that country in early days. It is extremely well written and is an authentic history of the livestock industry in that State.

Jack was a man tolerant of the weaknesses of his fellow men and quick to praise their virtues. I never knew a man who so loved to do things for his friends. Personally, I have been the recipient of many favors at his hands. He did much to make the way a little smoother and life just a little pleasanter for me. I have suffered a distinct personal loss in his passing.

He was clean strain. A man to ride the river with any time and we shall miss him.

Jack has gone up the Long Trail, but he did not travel it alone. With him went our thoughts, our hearts and our love. We know he found that Trail broad and smooth and that it led among tall trees and luscious grasses and by crystal streams. When he reached The Great Round-up and stood before the Range Boss with the rest of the dogies, when he checked his brand and marks in the Big Brand Book, I know the Range Boss looked on him with a kindly eye, classed and cut him into the herd that is to graze throughout eternity on the Great Range; that range where grass is always long and green, where the water is pure and sweet, where there are shady trees and the birds sing, where the sun shines all day and the southern breezes blow soft and cool, where there is no pain, no suffering, no grief, no sorrow, where all is peace and happiness forever.

He is the first of us to go up the Big Trail, but soon we too must make that sad journey and when we reach the end, worn, weary, and perhaps a little frightened, Jack will be standing at the Big Gate to bid us welcome to the Home Range, in the Far Beyond.

Hasta La Vista, Jack. Go with God.

JOHN K. ROLLINSON was born at Gowanda, New York and passed away at Pasadena, California, March 2nd, 1948 at the age of 63 years.

He had been very ill for about a week, having suffered a severe heart attack. Mrs. Rollinson called an ambulance and he was hurried to the Huntington Hospital where he was put under an oxygen tent. He was very low for a few days and then started to get better.

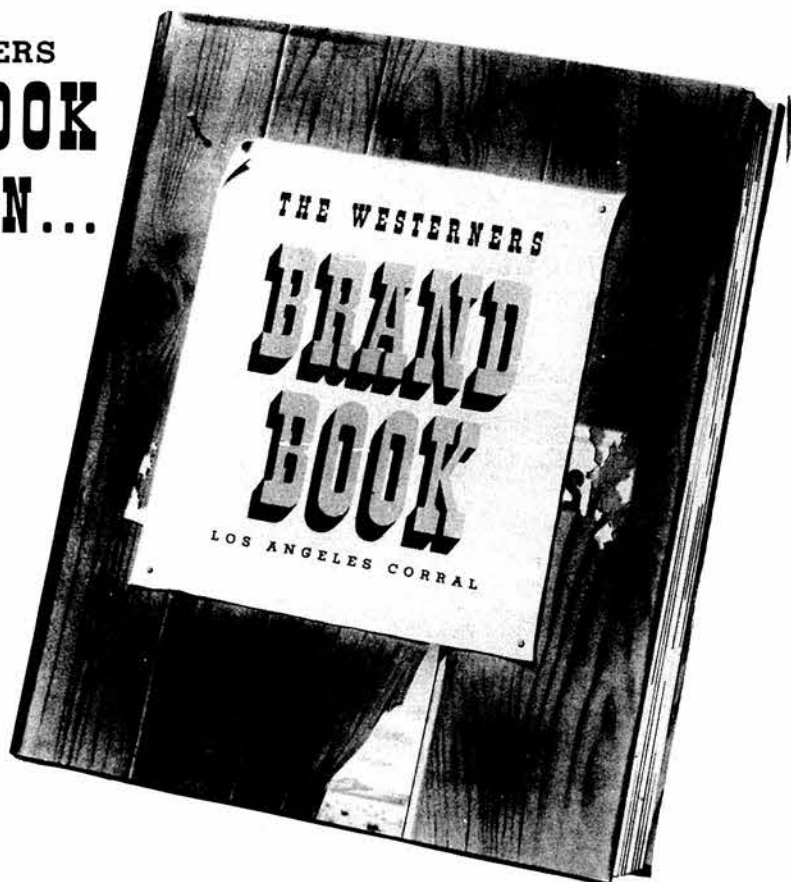
He expressed a desire to see his new book "*Wyoming Cattle Trails*" and Mrs. Rollinson wired his publishers who at once, sent him a copy by air-mail. It made him very happy.

On the afternoon of his passing, his nurse sat by his bed reading it to him. She asked him if he wished to sleep. He answered "No, read some more." There was a gasp, a shudder and he passed into a coma from which he never emerged.

He came to Wyoming when a boy and remained there the greater part of his life. He was, by nature, an out-door man, a lover of the wide-open spaces, the purple mountains, the green

THE WESTERNERS  
**BRAND BOOK**  
1947 EDITION...

Price **\$6.00**  
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☆ ☆ EXTENSIVELY illustrated with reproductions of drawings and paintings of western artists including Clarence Ellsworth, Charles M. Russell, John Goodman, F. Firfires, Charles Bodmer, et al., original photographs and portraits, colored end sheets of Los Angeles 1857, special colored dust jacket designed by Martin Johnson, bibliography of related western material by Robert J. Woods and index. Beautifully printed in offset lithography by Homer H. Boelter and bound by William Weber. Quarto, pp. 176, gold leaf stamped cloth and leather.

*Issued in a strictly limited edition of 600 copies  
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**ROUND-UP**  
LOS ANGELES CORRAL  
**WESTERNERS**

THURSDAY

APRIL 15, 1948

6:00 P.M.

FEDWOOD HOUSE

• • • • • **PROGRAMME** • • • • •

PAPER TO BE READ BY **FRANK SHILLING**  
ENTITLED **AL SIEBER, CHIEF OF APACHE SCOUTS**

**NOTICE:**

You will receive a regular post card by separate mail delivery. It will be necessary to mail in this card, as usual, specifying whether you will be present for this meeting.

It is planned to photograph each member so that his picture can be published in THE BRANDING IRON. If possible, come at least 15 minutes early.



# SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS

Write below the topics which you would like to be included in our future Westerner programs. In making your suggestions, remember that they will be a part of the yearly BRAND BOOK. Fill in your name, then mail this to

..... Street,  
Los Angeles, California

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME.....TELEPHONE.....

STREET NO.....ZONE.....CITY.....

## THE WESTERNERS

Colonel C. B. BENTON  
8228 Sunset Boulevard  
Hollywood 46, California



*Continued from page 1*

Monica. The two surviving charter members Glen Dawson and Neal Harlow were both present.

The founder of the Los Angeles Corral was Homer E. Britzman. He had an enthusiasm for collecting, especially the art of Charles M. Russell. On his visits to Dawson's Book Shop and the Arthur H. Clark Company he met the book collector Robert J. Woods. Homer Britzman and Robert Woods invited a group to meet at the Britzman home December 3, 1946. Each one invited had some special interest and expertise in the history of the American West. Included in the list were authors, artists, librarians, printers, booksellers, collectors and those with a connection with the motion picture industry. The first formal meeting was held December 19, 1946, at the Redwood House in Los Angeles. This article gives a few words about each of the 26 founding fathers of the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners.

**Noah Berry, Jr.** (1913-1994) had a long career in motion pictures starting in 1920 in *The Mark of Zoro* which starred his father Noah Berry, Sr. and Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. In all "Pidge" Berry had a sixty year film and television career. The last part of his life he lived on his Tehachapi ranch enjoying his menagerie of farm animals and birds.

**Colonel Charles B. Benton** was the ranking military member of the Westerners until the arrival of his friend Major General Frank S. Ross. Col. Benton served many years in American and British armies. His interests included the art of Edward Borein; he purchased some sketches by Borein from Mrs. Borein. The last meeting of the Westerners that Col. Benton attended was January 1968.

**Homer H. Boelter** (1899-1977) was a printer and artist. He designed and printed the first ten Westerners *Brand Books* at his Homer H. Boelter Lithography, Hollywood. He wrote, illustrated, printed and published his *Portfolio of Hopi Kachinas*, 1969. He served as the third Sheriff of the Westerners. Homer published a series of elaborate Christmas

booklets including ones with contributions by Don Luis Perceval and Lindley Bynum.

**J. Will Brewer** was a Los Angeles artist. He was listed in the 1947 *Brand Book* but no further record of his activity in the Corral.

**Earl Alonzo Brininstool** (1870-1957) was born in Warsaw, N. Y. and came to Los Angeles in 1895. He worked for the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Los Angeles Express* composing about 5,000 verses many on cowboy and range life. He wrote and edited a number of books on the West; he was especially knowledgeable about the Battle of the Little Big Horn, 1876. E. A. Brininstool wrote an article on Billy The Kid for the first Los Angeles *Brand Book*. He resigned from the Westerners in protest to some of the language used at the meetings. A portion of the library of E. A. Brininstool was sold in 1976 by Dawson's Book Shop, Catalogue 438.

**Homer E. Britzman** (1901 - 1953) was the founder and first Sheriff of the Los Angeles Westerners. When in high school in Colorado Springs, he was six foot six inches in height and captained both the football and basketball teams. Britz attended Northwestern University and University of Colorado. He became an executive of the Rio Grande Oil Company and the Richfield Oil Company. He met Charles and Nancy Russell in Montana and in 1926 bought the Russell home at 725 Michigan Avenue, Pasadena, where he enjoyed entertaining motion picture stars. He established Trails End Publishing partly as a hobby and partly as a business, publishing a number of books by western pioneers such as Frank King, Con Price and Ernest Sutton. Some of the art collections of Homer E. & Helen Ross Britzman are now in the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.

**Lindley Bynum** (1895-1965) was a field representative for the Huntington Library and later for University of California. He was an expert on wine tasting and wrote a book on the subject published by Homer Boelter. Lindley was known to his friends as "Pinkie."

**Edgar N. Carter** (1872-1966) was one of the first white children born in Wyoming the



Glen Dawson

son of Judge William A. Carter. Ed spent eighteen years with the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries and later in business activities in California. He wrote an article "Old Fort Bridger" in the first *Brand Book* of 1947.

**Glen Dawson** (1912- ) was born on the slopes of Mt. Washington, Los Angeles, a partner of Dawson's Book Shop 1936-1995, co-editor with Edwin Carpenter of the *Baja California Travels Series*. He served as Sheriff in 1959 but is perhaps best known as a pioneer California skier and rock climber.

**Clarence Ellsworth** (1885-1961) was born in Nebraska, worked as a commercial artist and in 1919 moved to Los Angeles. His art work can be found throughout the West in public buildings, magazine articles, books, book jackets and hundreds of superb canvases. He contributed much to the early *Brand Books*. He started the tradition of giving a painting to each retiring Sheriff of the Westerners.

**George E. Fullerton** (1898-1977), a third generation Californian, served as Sheriff in

1961. George had a great loyalty to the Westerners, in later years coming to meetings in a wheel chair. Much of his large library of Western Americana went to Azusa Pacific University but some items sold elsewhere.

**Paul William Galleher** (1901-1992) was the second Sheriff. Paul had a degree in electrical engineering but spent sixty-three years with the Arthur H. Clark Company in publishing and book selling. He started as a shipping clerk and retired as a senior partner. Together with his partner, Arthur H. Clark, Jr., he managed the sale of the *Brand Books* and in many other ways contributed to the success of the Westerners.

**John B. Goodman III** (1901-1991) was a motion picture director and a book collector. He wrote and published a series of small books *Scraps of California*. His extensive research on the California Gold Rush Fleet of 1849 was left to the Huntington Library, and the Jessie H. and John B. Goodman collection of books was given to the University Library, University of California, San Diego.

**Robert A Griffen** of Reno, Nevada, was the only charter Corresponding Member although later there were more corresponding Members than regular Members. Robert Griffen edited *My Life in the Mountains and on the Plains* by David Meriwether.

**Jack Harden** was the first Deputy Sheriff. His interests were Russell, early California history and horses.

**Neal Harlow** (1908 - ) was in charge of Special Collections at the UCLA Library at the time of the founding of the Westerners. He went off to be Librarian of the University of British Columbia and Director of the Rutgers School of Library Service before finally returning to the same address in Los Angeles. Neal has written three large books on maps relating to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego and is author of *California Conquered, War and Peace on the Pacific* (1982).

**Don Hill** (1888-1964) was born in West Virginia, graduated from high school in Aberdeen, South Dakota, and came to California in 1909. He was a newspaperman

and in advertising and sales promotion. As a book collector he read the books he bought. He was an expert photographer. He served the Zamorano Club as president.

**M. Martin Johnson** of Burbank is recorded as being the only original member of the Chicago Corral of the Westerners to also be a charter member of the Los Angeles Corral. However E. A. Brininstool, John Rollinson and Homer Britzman were all corresponding members of the Chicago Corral before December, 1946. M. Martin Johnson was a commercial artist. There is little record of his activity in the Corral other than being a charter member.

**J. Gregg Layne** (1885-1952) was the speaker at the first meeting of the Westerners. At one time he worked as a greeter at Silverwoods, later as a consultant on Western Americana for the UCLA Library. He was active in the Historical Society of Southern California and edited its *Quarterly* for fifteen years. Gregg, a dedicated collector of books, left one of his collections to the University of Southern California Library and another to UCLA. He wrote a history for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power which was not published.

**William Wilcox Robinson**, (1891-1972), who went by W.W. or Will, worked for the Title Guarantee & Trust Co. and the Title Insurance and Trust Company where he wrote a series of booklets on Southern California communities. His other works include *Ranchos Become Cities*, 1939, *Land in California*, 1948, and *Maps of Los Angeles*, 1966. He also wrote a number of books for children with illustrations by his wife, Irene Robinson.

**John K. Rollinson** (1882-1948) was a cowman, rancher and author. His works include *Hoofprints of a Cowboy* and *U.S. Ranger and Wyoming Cattle Trails*, both edited by E. S. Brininstool.

**Jack Sahr** of North Hollywood is listed as a cowman bred in the saddle. He was a rodeo contestant and also a cattle buyer.

**Ernest V. Sutton** (1862-1950) was the oldest charter member of the Westerners



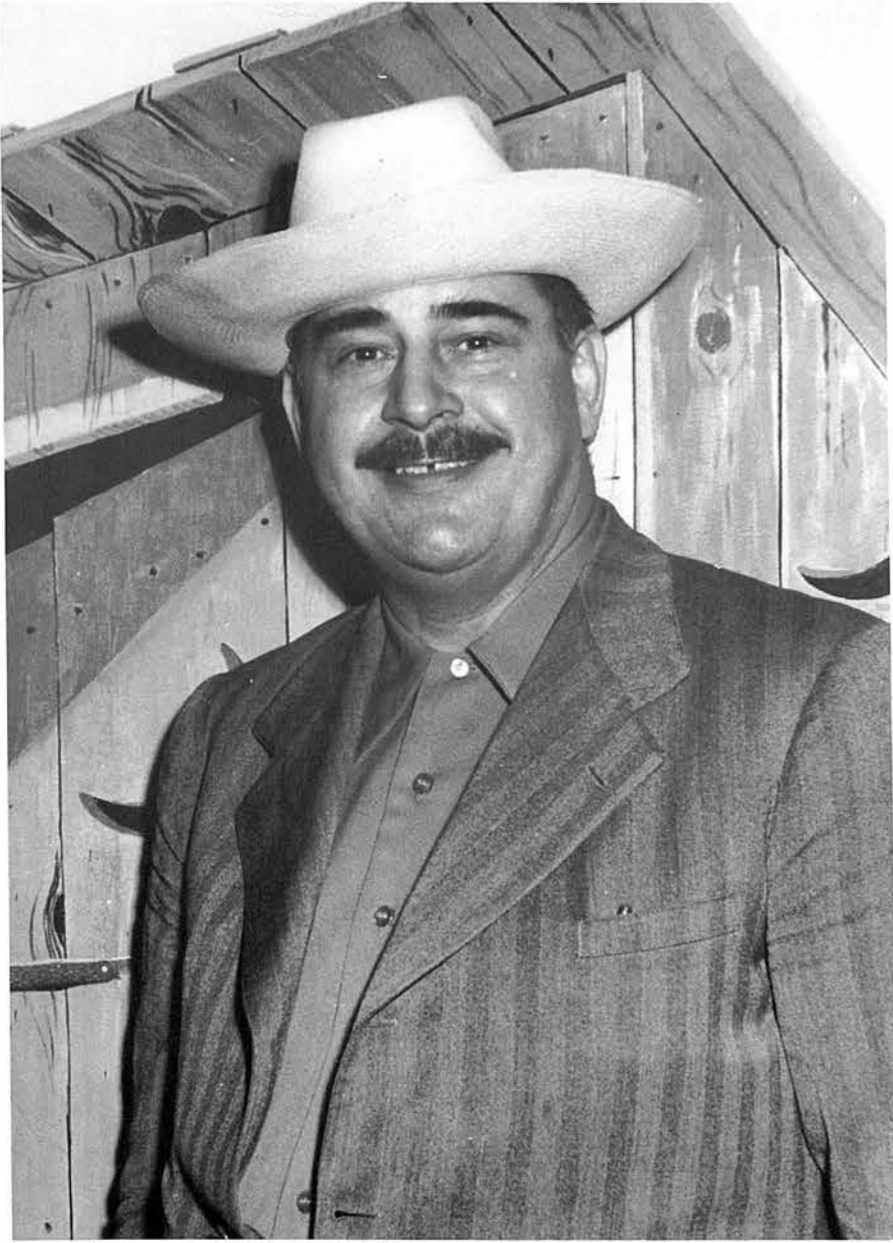
Neal Harlow

and personally experienced the old West. He came to California in 1890. He served as the first Mayor of South Pasadena where he lived the last 44 years of his life. Ernie enjoyed coming to the meetings of the Westerners in elaborate costumes each time in a different outfit. His autobiography, *A Life Worth Living*, was published by Homer Britzman's Trails End Publishing Company.

**Robert J. Woods** (1892-1967) made his living as an apartment house owner and manager but his real love was collecting books and meeting with his Zamorano Club, ECV and Westerner friends. He was co-founder of the Los Angeles Corral and Sheriff in 1954. He was one of the compilers of *The Zamorano Eighty*. After his death his extensive library was sold to the University of Alberta.

**Arthur Woodward** (1898-1986) was director of History and Anthropology in the Los Angeles County Museum. During World War I he served in the Infantry and in World War II as a naval intelligence officer in





Homer Britzman, founder and first Sheriff.

the South Pacific. Art was a frequent speaker at meetings of the Westerners and was Sheriff in 1958. He wrote a number of books and many shorter pieces for periodicals and journals. He retired to Patagonia, Arizona. His extensive collection now belongs to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson.

**Charles Yale** (1892-1951) came to Pasadena in 1906. He was a graduate of the

first class in Library Science at the Minneapolis Public Library. He worked for Vromans of Pasadena and Dawson's Book Shop in Los Angeles and in 1939 he opened his own business, Charles Yale, Bookseller. One of his customers was Homer Britzman.

There were many notable characters who joined the Westerners in the formative years which could be the subject of another

article; however, in addition to the 26 founding fathers two other names should be mentioned here.

**James Robert Williams** (1888-1957) known as J. R. Williams was a cowboy, camp cook and mule skinner who became a noted cartoonist creating the cartoon panel "Out Our Way". Jim Williams attended the December 3, 1946, meeting and served with Paul Galleher and Glen Dawson on the first nominating committee, but did not attend later meetings. He can be considered the first non-member of the Westerners.

**Iron Eyes Cody** (1904- ) claims to have

founded the Westerners with Homer Britzman. Iron Eyes was not present at the time of the December 1946, meetings perhaps working on location as a motion picture actor. However, Iron Eyes was a guest of Homer Britzman at Trails End before December 1946, and probably the idea of the organization was brought up. For many years Iron Eyes rode horseback in the Pasadena Rose Parade. He wrote several books including one published by Homer Boelter, *How to Sign Talk in Pictures*, 1952. Iron Eyes has been a colorful member of the Westerners almost all of the first fifty years.

## Photographs of Charter Members

Charter Members for whom an identified, individual photograph is available. The members for whom there is no such photo are: **J. Will Brewer, Earl Alonzo Brininstool, John B. Goodman III, Robert**

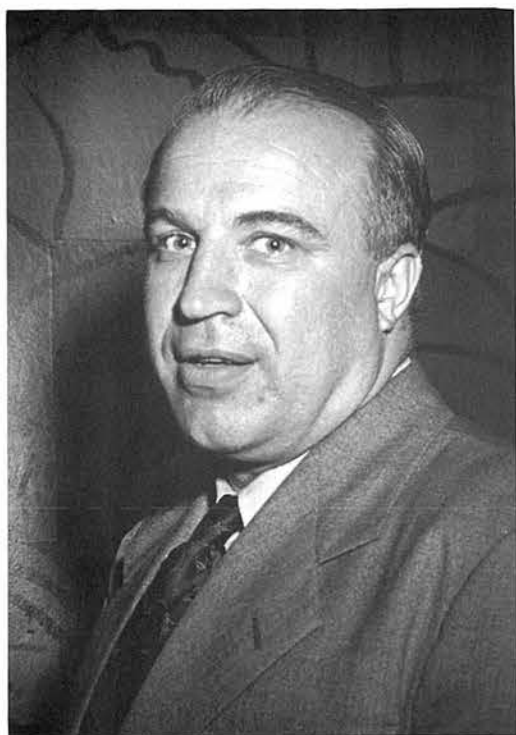
**A. Griffen and John A. Rollinson.** If any member has an individual photo of any of these men, the Corral would appreciate a copy for our files.



Noah Berry, Jr.



Colonel Charles B. Benton



Homer H. Boelter



Lindley Bynum



Edgar N. Carter



Clarence Ellsworth



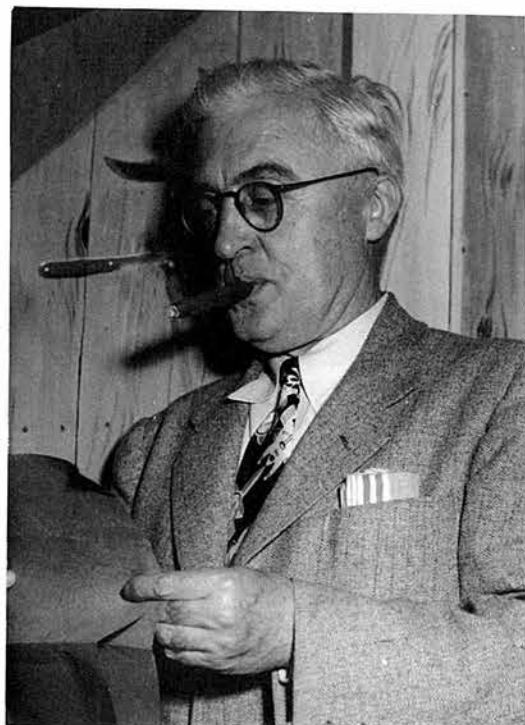
George E. Fullerton



Paul William Galleher



Jack Harden



Don Hill



M. Martin Johnson



J. Gregg Layne



William Wilcox Robinson



Jack Sahr





Ernest V. Sutton



Robert J. Woods



Arthur Woodward



Charles Yale

# What is Your Membership Worth to You?

## An Anniversary Appraisal with a Glimpse Into the Future

by Paul Galleher

Reproduced from *Branding Iron* Number 103, December 1971

If an Organization such as ours has been in existence for a quarter of a century, and we wish to recognize this fact, we might review our past and ask ourselves several questions:

1. Why was such an organization formed,
2. How has it demonstrated its vitality,
3. Is there still a need for a continuing effort to do what we are doing, if in truth we are doing anything at all?

This Corral has enjoyed 25 years of prosperous and continuous growth and activity. Looking back over these years, I cannot help but be impressed with several factors which have contributed to our development. However, before I report on these factors, let me set the scene for you.

The Westerners, Los Angeles Corral, was born amid a somewhat distinguished environment of happenings. In December of 1946, several things were taking place which will help identify the time for you. It was in that month and year that Roscoe Conkling, recently deceased, was bringing to a close his magnum opus, the large 3-volume set of *The Butterfield Overland Mail*, which has been characterized as without question the final and definitive work on this important phase of westward development. Almost at this time, Bernard DeVoto was putting the finishing touches to his now-classic *Across the Wide Missouri*. Membership in the Historical Society of Southern California was five dollars, and J. Gregg Layne, the first speaker at our first Westerner meeting, was editor of the *Historical Society Quarterly*. Parenthetically, it is interesting to observe that not by design, but by fortuitous circumstance, our Silver Anniversary volume just published, should be on the subject of vigilantes. This was also the subject of that first talk given to the Westerners by Mr. Layne 25 years ago, on the

19th of this month.

Also one day in mid-1946, there had assembled in front of the Los Angeles City Hall 25,000 citizens to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the raising of the first American flag over the pueblo, 1846. It was a year of centennial celebrations to commemorate the capture of Los Angeles. It was also the year in which Paul Bailey introduced his now-famous publication, *Deliver Me From Eva*. In the same year, W.W. Robinson was working on a study of land in California which was later to be published under that same title. Art Woodward did his *Lances at San Pasqual* and there was a 2 1/2% California state sales tax.

It was then during these times of exciting happenings that The Westerners, Los Angeles Corral, was born. Last month, we had some reminiscences of what, for lack of a better phrase, was put on by the "Old Timers." We will try to avoid repeating what was said then, and in some small way, take a look at these 25 years on the basis of the accomplishment of the Westerners of Los Angeles, and a forward look at what is expected of us in the future.

Mention has already been made of the several factors which contributed to our growth and development. First I should mention the little set of principles and policies which were wisely conceived a quarter of a century ago, and indicate to you that they have been pretty-well adhered to. Here is a quotation from our very first publication: "The new Los Angeles Corral of Westerners, organized December, 1946, came into existence to enable men with common interests to meet with reasonable frequency, and to exchange information and knowledge. They are motivated by sincere desire to learn more of our own great West - its background, its people, its traditions and its

history. Westerners know that in their own backyard, they have a rich heritage of fascinating facts and lore well worth perpetuation. In a modest way, the Westerners are trying to stimulate this interest, trying to unearth and rediscover our ancient past and trying to preserve our more recent history of the Indian, pioneer and others who trod our plains and mountains in opening the West to so-called civilization. While doing this purely as an avocation they feel richly rewarded in the pleasure they derive from their study and research. They neither expect nor wish any other reward.

*Each man is expected to take an active interest in each meeting and to prepare a paper on a subject of his own choice. This spirit of fair exchange enables every man to broaden his own knowledge of the West and to contribute some of the richness of his own experience and study."*

Our batting average hasn't been 100%. I'm sure you all realize this, but with this goal before us, we have made progress toward these objectives. Secondly, we *have* had dedicated and vital leadership, and while we have had renegades among our membership who would have liked to do other than maintain our principles which on occasion might have lead us away from our purposes, the far seeing vision of our leadership has always been able to get us back on the right track, and for this I'm sure we are all grateful. Men who were merely 'joiners' or who had ulterior motives in gaining membership to our organization, were soon disillusioned and resigned. We always need to remind ourselves that we are not just a drinking society, nor a knife and fork club, but first and foremost we come together for the purpose of learning something ourselves, and broadening our own horizons as well as helping others in their quest for knowledge.

Thirdly, in the sense that we have demonstrated our vitality, we should say that to the credit of our The Westerners, Los Angeles Corral, there has already accrued a significant shelf of books, quarterly publications and keepsakes. To a large extent, the

substance of these publications has been either directly or indirectly contributed by our members. It may interest the new members and guests to know that a complete set of our *Brand Books*, thirteen in all, recently sold for \$800. These books have been the fruit of labor of our membership and at no financial gain to themselves.

Testifying to the fact that these *Brand Books* are much more than just publications here is what Paul Bailey wrote several years ago. "There is nothing on God's sod that so fraternally unites the souls of men as mutual endeavor in a common project....From the organization's very inception, the *Brand Book* - from incubation, from sweat and terror of production, through to the satisfying joys of completion - has been the catalyzing factor in welding the men-souls of this unique fraternity into the common joy of creation.... Twelve times has this dedicated little group of men risked effort, time and money to the bringing forth of their periodic volumes. Twelve times has this dedication and risk been vindicated by a unique and timeless book worthy to take its place on the shelf of publications which have made The Westerners, Los Angeles Corral, famous... From Hodge, Harrington and Wellman, to Russell, Dixon and Ellsworth, have come the riches of scholarship and art. Between the covers of these books are the scores of papers written by men of skill and dedication, whose sole purpose was to make articulate the memories and experiences to which the Great West had moved them. The great majority of these contributors have come from the membership rolls of the organization they have so ably and imperishably served. The frantic and continued demand by libraries and scholars for these *Brand Books* is final clinching proof of their importance as publications...But important and heartwarming as is this achievement, it is not the most important asset inherent in this publishing endeavor. A greater thing by far has been the magnetic, almost spiritual quality which this united endeavor has laid upon Los Angeles Corral through the years. Like a lodestar, the *Brand Book* has been the

strength and sinew which as welded a very small group of men into a dedicated force. More than any other one thing, the periodic issuance of these books has been a force that has gathered and fashioned men of diverse backgrounds into a fraternity of dedication."

Thus the Westerners have demonstrated the vitality of the group by not only doing the research, the publishing and individually supporting these publications, but also seeing to it that these books find a permanent place in the libraries and colleges both here and abroad so that their efforts may be for all time available for study and use. In further defense of the vitality factor, it should be mentioned that many of our own members have been frequent speakers at many historical functions, various historical societies throughout the state, many conferences such as the Western History Association whose ten annual meetings have found a number of our members making solid contributions to the great body of western history. They have appeared before corral not only in this country, but in foreign lands as well and otherwise brought glory to and expanded the image of our own Los Angeles Corral. Conversely, the ever-growing stature of The Westerners, Los Angeles Corral attracted many well-known personalities from outside our Corral who accepted our invitation to address us. While its risky business to try and name them all, just to make a point, I do recall among a host of visitors, Oscar Winther, Horace Albright, David Lavender, J. Frank Dobie several times, Dr. Robert Cleland, Paul Wellman, Roy Hafen and many others. The point I am trying to make is that men of achievement from whom we can learn, did and still do, come to us to help with our aims and objects - another addition to our vitality factor.

But what of the future? Just what do you think your membership is worth to you? Is there a continuing need for this organization, and if so what is to be done about it. Time has a way of marching on, and in its wake members are taken from us just as the Fred Hodges, the Homer Britzmans, the Lonnie Hulls, the Percy Bonebrakes, the

Ernie Suttons and those who were fondly recalled last month. Has this 25 years stressed enough the values which come from taking an active part in such an organization so that the interest and research among men with common interests will endure? Is this spirit of fair exchange, in an atmosphere conducive to the absorption of such material to be continued? The phenomenal growth of our state and city in the past ten years has created situations which all organizations have had to take into consideration. We now have many more people interested in the West who must be served. For many years our active membership had been limited to 50 men, with an unlimited number of corresponding members. There were some advantages to this. Each one knew the other in a more intimate and attached way. They helped solve each other's problems and the spirit of comradeship prevailed in their kindred interests. By action of this Corral not too long ago, the active membership was increased to a base of 75 members and only very recently an 'Associates' program was initiated to allow for an additional 25 or 30 members in this category. These new men are going to have to gradually assume the responsibility of continuing the principles and purposes for which this group was founded, and it is going to be up to them to see that this Corral of Westerners maintains its place as a living, vibrant organization - not only with a past, but with an even greater future. I feel that we now, as a larger group in a more populous community, can still generate the same feeling which was true with 50 men if we but do two things: First, be sure we maintain only a membership of interested men who believe in what we are trying to do, and secondly, insist that each man actively participate to reflect this interest.

Our corresponding membership has never been limited and has grown to the extent that we now have members throughout the United States and in some foreign countries, and with their help in joining forces with us at home, our energies will be put to an even greater use.



Some years ago we adopted the Southwest Museum as a depository for our papers, reports, manuscripts, books and the like, and just recently our Trail Bosses created the office of Historian, looking forward to the time when we ourselves, through interested members who accept this office from time to time, may create an even greater source for our use and study, and make it also possible through the Museum to help others do the same. So I think in part, we have answered all of the questions we were asking ourselves at the outset - why was

such an organization formed; how has it demonstrated its vitality, and finally, is there any need for a continuing effort to do what we have been doing? Thus in truth we are still trying. We still have the future in focus, and acting on behalf of posterity, we will continue to unselfishly address ourselves to the needs of others by maintaining the principles upon which our little group was founded 25 years ago. What is your membership worth to you? I would guess the answer is directly up to you.



Two members 1957 - Iron Eyes Cody and Tim McCoy.

## The Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners A Glance at Its Early Years

*by Arthur H. Clark*

In 1946 the teaching of the history of the West in high schools and colleges was in decline. Fortunately the basic interest of the past of this region of our country remained very much alive as was evidenced by the formation of such groups as the Westerners to maintain and stimulate the interest in both study and writing on the fascinating elements of the people and events of our

Western region. The fourth such group was, in 1946, the beginning of the Los Angeles Corral. Its humble start was for a limited membership of fifty men of our area, gathered together by our first Sheriff Homer Britzman.

In our first *Brand Book* Britzman wrote: "Men with common interests naturally gather to discuss matters - hence we have organ-





Past Sheriffs 1967. Top row: George Fullerton, August Schatra, Arthur Clark, Henry Clifford, John Kemble, Don Meadows, Harvey Starr, Carl Dentzel, Homer Boelter. Seated: Sid Platford, unidentified, Bert Olson, Glen Dawson, Ervin Strong, Paul Bailey. Missing: Homer Britzman (deceased), Paul Galleher, Robert Woods, (deceased), Loring Campbell, Art Woodward, James Algar, Harvey Johnson, E.I. Edwards.

izations such as our Westerners groups." Britz referred, of course, to the already existing Posses and Corrals in Chicago, St. Louis and Denver. He continued: "The Westerners are motivated by a desire to learn more of our own great West . . . While doing this purely as an avocation, they feel richly rewarded in the pleasure they derive from their study and research. . ."

The early years of the L. A. Corral were fortunate to have among its members some knowledgeable in our history, and also some members who had personally experienced the West. Among these were riders of ranch spreads such as Billy Dodson, Britzman, and Percy Bonebrake; those whose knowledge of

the life and ways of the Indians included Fred Hodge, Ernie Sutton, Mark Harrington, E. A. Brinninstool and Art Woodward; creative artists such as Clarence Ellsworth, Don Perceval, Holling C. Holling, James Algar, Dwight Franklin and Homer Boelter. Well recognized writer members included W. W. Robinson, Paul Bailey, Harry James, John Terrell, Earl Forrest, Lee Shippey and our occasional program speaker J. Frank Dobie. Others from the movie-entertainment activities were Noah "Pidge" Beery, Col. Tim McCoy and, of course Iron Eyes Cody. All of these added spice of the West in talks at Corral meetings as well as in intriguing conversation.



1947 Meeting in Sheriff Britzman's home which had earlier belonged to Charley Russell. Most of charter members are in group.



Art Clark and Robert Cleland at a 1952 meeting.

Of the early summer Rendezvous meetings certainly outstanding were those from 1948 through 1953 held at Ernie Hickson's movie-set ranch town near Newhall, and the visits to the Oak Of The Golden Dream in Placerita Canyon where a trace of gold was discovered in 1842.

In our first 50 years the Corral has never missed a monthly meeting. The early meetings, which began at the Redwood House restaurant near the Times building, were limited to the 50 Active Members only, plus an occasional guest, and attendance was only some 30 to 40 men. In later years the obvious interest of Corresponding Members

has opened the meetings to them and attendance has grown to over 100, limited only by the capacity of the meeting places.

The recent Keepsake issue listing all the meetings, locations and speakers is a tribute to the tenacity of the members in their Western interest. The list of speakers has been such to firmly fix the status of the L.A. Corral in its contribution to the study and recording of things Western.

Our Corral can well be proud of its publishing program. None of the many Corrals and Posses can even approach the record of our having issued the *Branding Iron* on a quarterly basis for at least 48 of our 50 years. And likewise our publishing of nineteen substantial *Brand Books* and other book-length volumes and Keepsake items with their informative articles and art decoration is unmatched by any other Westerner group.

Publication of the *Brand Books* began only by early members contributing substantial financial support for the printing and binding processes, with repayment only after necessary funds were produced by successful sales of the books.

The *Brand Books*, *Branding Irons* and keepsakes of our publications are today treasured items in the collections and libraries of the United States and in libraries of several foreign countries.

The L. A. Corral and its Westerner members have much to be proud of in our continued active promotion of the study and publishing of things Western in our 50 years of existence. And perhaps it is also significant that our efforts may add to the recognition of the occasion that 150 years ago witnessed the flying of the Stars and Stripes over the Pueblo of Los Angeles.

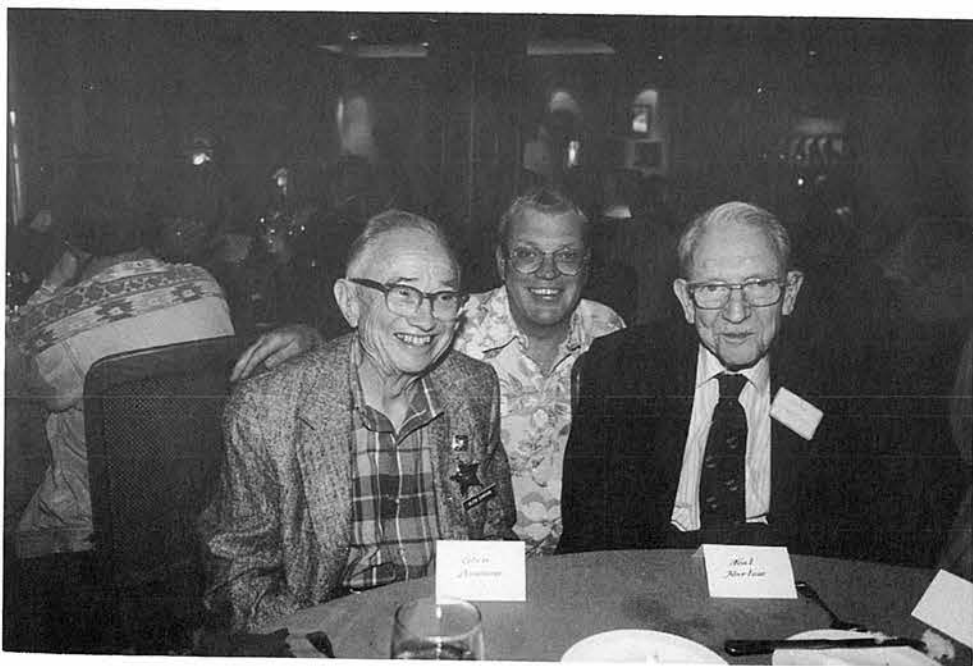


1953 Corral Meeting at Placerita Ranch



1964 meeting at Temecula.





Photography by Frank Q. Newton

Charter members Glen Dawson and Neal Harlow with Sheriff Tom Bent.

## Fandango

This year's Fandango was the official celebration of the the Golden Anniversary of the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners.

Through the good services of Josef Lesser, we were able to acquire the facilities of the California Heritage Museum in Santa Monica for the celebration. Everything worked as desired. The grounds provided a great setting for socialization before dinner, the miniature train collection was the magnet to provide entertainment and the weather could only be described as gorgeous.

After the social period, the guest moved to the Chronicle, housed in an old Victorian home, for the dinner and celebration. At the tables, a new touch was discovered - place cards prepared by Pat Gallucci. During the

dinner, background music was provided by Jim Furnston.

The main event of the evening was the recognition of the two surviving members of the original Corral, Glen Dawson and Neal Harlow. The raffle for three Andy Dagosta paintings was very active. Ruth Malora, whose late husband, Stan, was the organizer of the 40th Anniversary, and William Escherich were among the lucky winners. Of course, the real high light of the evening was the slicing and serving of the three anniversary cakes.

Each attending member received a cloisonne pin designed by Andy Dagosta as a memento of the event.



*Photography by Frank Q. Newton*

Ms. Ruth Malora winner of one of the paintings.



*Photography by Frank Q. Newton*

Guests observing the miniature train exhibit.



*Photography by Frank Q. Newton*

Anniversary cakes



*Photography by Frank Q. Newton*

Corral members anxiously await the start of the auction.

## Rendezvous

Once again, the Corral met at the lovely home of Sheriff Tom Bent for the annual Rendezvous. As usual, large numbers gathered to celebrate, socialize, to participate in the auction and, of course, dine.

As usual, the auction, ably conducted by Hugh Tolford with assistance from Loren Wendt, assistant auctioneer, and Eric Nelson and his runners, proved the high point of the day.

Several items led to very competitive and rapid bidding. The silent auction started slowly then in the final minutes the hordes descended to make last minute winning bids on the items.

Following tradition, Sheriff Tom Bent announced the new honorary members, Raymund Wood and Tony Kroll who were recognized for their years of loyal membership and attendance.



*Photography by Frank Q. Newton*

Auctioneer Hugh Tolford and runners.



*Photography by Frank Q. Newton*

Sheriff Tom Bent and honorary guests Ray Wood and Tony Kroll.