

Jedediah Strong Smith from painting by George Mathis.

## Celebrating Jedediah Smith's Bicentennial, 1799-1999, A Bibliohistory *by John Robinson*

The era of the fur trade bolted across the American West like a fiery meteor, rising from the eastern sky shortly after 1800, flaring into dazzling brilliance during the 1820s

and early '30s and fading to obscurity by 1840. Lewis and Clark, in their epic 1804-06 journey up the Missouri River, over the Rockies, and down the Columbia to the Pacific Ocean and return, made known this fabulous wilderness where beaver and other fur-coated wildlife were abundant. Close on the footsteps of the Corps of Discovery came a breed of hardy, fearless, self-reliant men seeking to exploit these seemingly inexhaustible animal resources. These were the mountain men who reached into the far corners of the Rockies and beyond, contesting with Indians, grizzlies and rival trappers from the Hudson's Bay Company in a frantic search for beaver-rich streams. This was a time when beaverskin hats, coats, muffs and collars were fashionable in the eastern United States and Europe. Top dollar was paid for the best pelts, and demand constantly exceeded supply while the fad lasted. When beaverskin went out of fashion: the time of the mountain man was over, and the little fur-coated mammal that once plied the mountain streams in abundance was close to extinction.

The legacy of the mountain men was the opening of the west for travel and settlement. In their adventurous journeys they learned the lay of the land and prepared the way for the great western migrations that were soon to follow. Their exploits became the stuff of legends.

Undoubtedly the best known of these legendary mountain men was Jedediah Strong Smith. Born in Bainbridge, New York in 1799, Jedediah Smith was no ordinary man. In contrast to the typical mountain

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## THE MONTHLY ROUNDUP

### SEPTEMBER 1999 MEETING

Josef Lesser, long time member and the founder of the Los Angeles Museum of Railroading, discussed a rather memorable event that occurred at the Union Station in 1948.



September Meeting Speaker Josef Lesser with photographer Fletcher Swan at microphone

The diners at Philippe's, then still at its original location on Aliso Street, heard a horrendous crash and rushed to the sidewalk to observe about 16 feet of Santa Fe locomotive #19 hanging over the street.

Train 17, apparently a combined Super Chief and El Capitan run, had earlier arrived at the station. While engineer, Fred A. Hertz, was moving the locomotive

*(Continued on page 12)*



Jedediah Strong Smith and party arriving at Mission San Gabriel. From painting by Carl Oscar Borg.

man, he was a literate, self-educated, ambitious and deeply religious person, a born leader who was soon admired and respected by most with whom he came in contact. A restless soul in his youth, Jedediah wandered west and in 1822, at the age of 23, signed on with William H. Ashley and Andrew Henry on their pioneering journey up the Missouri to hunt beaver. Over the ensuing four years, Smith explored and trapped the northern Rockies. In 1824 Smith, after proving his mettle and leadership abilities, was given command of a trapping party that crossed South Pass into the little-known, beaver-rich country south of Yellowstone. South Pass, the easiest way across the Rockies, was Jedediah Smith's first major geographical discovery (actually rediscovery: the Astorians of the American Fur Company had used it in 1812, but it had been forgotten). South Pass later became the route through the Rockies for both the Oregon and California trails. In the summer

of 1826, William Ashley decided to give up his leadership of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company and sold out to Jedediah Smith, David Jackson and William Sublette. The partnership of Smith, Jackson and Sublette now was the major American fur enterprise in the West, in direct competition with Britain's Hudson's Bay Company.

While his two new partners went north for the fall hunt, 27-year-old Jedediah Smith led a party of seventeen trappers south from Salt Lake to hunt beaver in the little-known country between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. Smith and his men trapped their way south through present-day Utah, then southwest along the Colorado River to the Mojave villages. They crossed the great river and made their way west, following the ancient Mojave Indian Trail, to Mission San Gabriel. They were the first white men to travel overland from the American frontier to California, blazing a path that a few years later became the west-

ern portion of the Old Spanish Trail. Their return route in this memorable 1826-27 expedition was north through California's great Central Valley, then east across the snowy Sierra Nevada and the arid wastes of the Great Basin to Salt Lake. Smith led a second expedition to California in 1827-28, following the same route to the Mexican coastal province. From California, he and his men this time trapped their way north through the Oregon country to the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River before turning east to the Rockies. Smith seemed to lead a charmed life on this second excursion; he barely escaped with his life while most of his men lost theirs when attacked by Mojaves while fording the Colorado and later ambushed by Umpquas in southern Oregon. Sadly his luck failed to hold. Jedediah Smith's incredibly adventurous life came to an untimely end when Comanches attacked and killed him at a waterhole near the Santa Fe Trail in 1831. He was not yet 33 years of age.

During his short life, Jedediah Smith became arguably the greatest of the Western mountain men. He made the effective discovery of South Pass through the Rockies, was the first white man to reach California overland from Missouri, was first to cross the Sierra Nevada, first to travel the width of the Great Basin and first to go by land from California to Oregon. True, he was no saint as some writers make him out to be; he flouted Mexican sovereignty, broke the rules and lied to officials and priests alike during his two sojourns in California. But his leadership qualities, his persistence in the face of hardship, his fearlessness and most of all his adventurous spirit, placed him in the front ranks of Western explorers. And he pioneered the way for what first became a trickle, then a stream and finally a flood of Americans into California.

With his great achievements, one might think that Jedediah Smith would have been accorded immediate fame, but such was not the case. He received a warm eulogy titled "Jedediah Strong Smith", written anony-

mously, in *The Illinois Monthly Magazine*, June 1832, and then he, and the short-lived era of the mountain men, were virtually forgotten.

Smith had collected voluminous notes and maps for a book he planned to write, but his early death prevented this. His notes became fragmented and ended up in the hands of various Smith relatives. His maps were lost. Fortunately, a large collection of his notes and copies of some of his maps eventually reached the archives of the Missouri Historical Society where, almost seventy years after Smith's death, they were studied by a middle-aged army officer named Hiram Martin Chittenden.

Hiram Chittenden (1858-1917) graduated from West Point, class of 1884, and was assigned to the Army Corps of Engineers. While stationed at various posts in the West, Chittenden became interested in the fur trade. Assigned to St. Louis in the late 1890s, Chittenden discovered the fabulous collection of fur trade material in the possession of the Missouri Historical Society. He decided to write a history of the fur trade and mountain men of the Far West. Chittenden's *The American Fur Trade of the Far West* (New York: Francis P. Harper, 1902), published in three volumes, almost singlehandedly reawakened interest, on the part of scholars and the general public alike, in the era of the mountain men. He included a biographical sketch of Jedediah Smith, whom he called "one of the most remarkable men that ever engaged in the American fur trade. He was like that distinguished character of later years, Stonewall Jackson, in combining with the most ardent belief in, and practice of, the Christian religion, an undaunted courage, fierce and impetuous nature, and untiring energy." Chittenden's history of the Western fur trade, carefully researched and clearly written, remains the basic history of the enterprise nearly a century after its initial publication. Somewhat outdated by more recent research and rightly criticized for its omission of the trappers of the Southwest, it remains the cornerstone, the veritable foundation for any study of the fur trade in the





*A Trapper and His Pony, from a drawing by Frederic Remington.*

Far West.

As previously stated, Chittenden's work awakened a general interest in the fur trade as a whole and the adventures of Jedediah Smith in particular. Next to make a detailed study of the subject, concentrating on the exploits of Jedediah Smith, was Harrison Clifford Dale, a college professor long associated with the University of Idaho. Dale's *The Ashley-Smith Explorations and the Discovery of a Central Route to the Pacific, 1822-1829* (Cleveland: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1918; revised, Glendale: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1941) is the first serious account of Smith's association with William H. Ashley, and the former's expeditions to California, based on the material in possession of the Missouri Historical Society at the time of Dale's research. Included in the book are partial narratives written by Smith and the day book of Harrison Rogers, Smith's trustworthy lieutenant on his journeys to the Pacific.

John G. Neihardt, a Nebraska poet and

historian, came out with *The Splendid Wayfaring* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1920) two years after Dale's more scholarly study. Neihardt's little volume includes the first, sketchy, book-length biography of Jedediah Smith, concentrating, in rather romantic fashion, on Smith and his comrades' discoveries and exploits in the Far West. Neihardt fancied himself a poet in his later years and wrote "The Song of Jed Smith" in 1941.

Maurice S. Sullivan, a Redlands, California historian and writer, was able to locate several Smith descendants who had in their possession verbatim copies of Jedediah Smith's writings—the originals were destroyed by fire. Using these, and through diligent research at the Missouri Historical Society (the starting point for any study of Jedediah Smith) and other repositories across the nation, he published *The Travels of Jedediah Smith: A Documentary Outline* (Santa Ana: Fine Arts Press, 1934). Sullivan includes several portions of Smith's writings

with Smith's return trip to Utah at the end of his first expedition and his second visit to California and travels north to Oregon. Included in *Travels* is the diary of Alexander R. McLeod, describing the Hudson's Bay Company expedition to recover Smith's property lost in the Umpqua River massacre.

Two years later Maurice Sullivan's *Jedediah Smith: Trader and Trailbreaker* (New York: Press of the Pioneers, 1936) appeared, the first thoroughly researched, full length biography of the remarkable mountain man. It was highly acclaimed upon publication, considered to be the definitive work of Smith for years to come. Sadly, Maurice Sullivan died at the young age of 41 in 1935, never seeing his masterpiece in print.

Sullivan's work was superseded seventeen years later by Dale L. Morgan's *Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West* (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1953), which still today and probably for many years to come will be considered the definitive biography. Dale Morgan, a Utah-born scholar, was one of the premier historians of the American West before his untimely death in 1971, just as he was beginning work on a history of the Western fur trade. Morgan's meticulous scholarship was painstaking, thorough and impeccable. Besides visiting every research institution possessing Smith material, he sought out descendants of the mountain man and unearthed more of Smith's fragmented writings. Morgan's work remains today, forty-six years later, one of the great Western American biographies and a "must read" for any Western history buff.

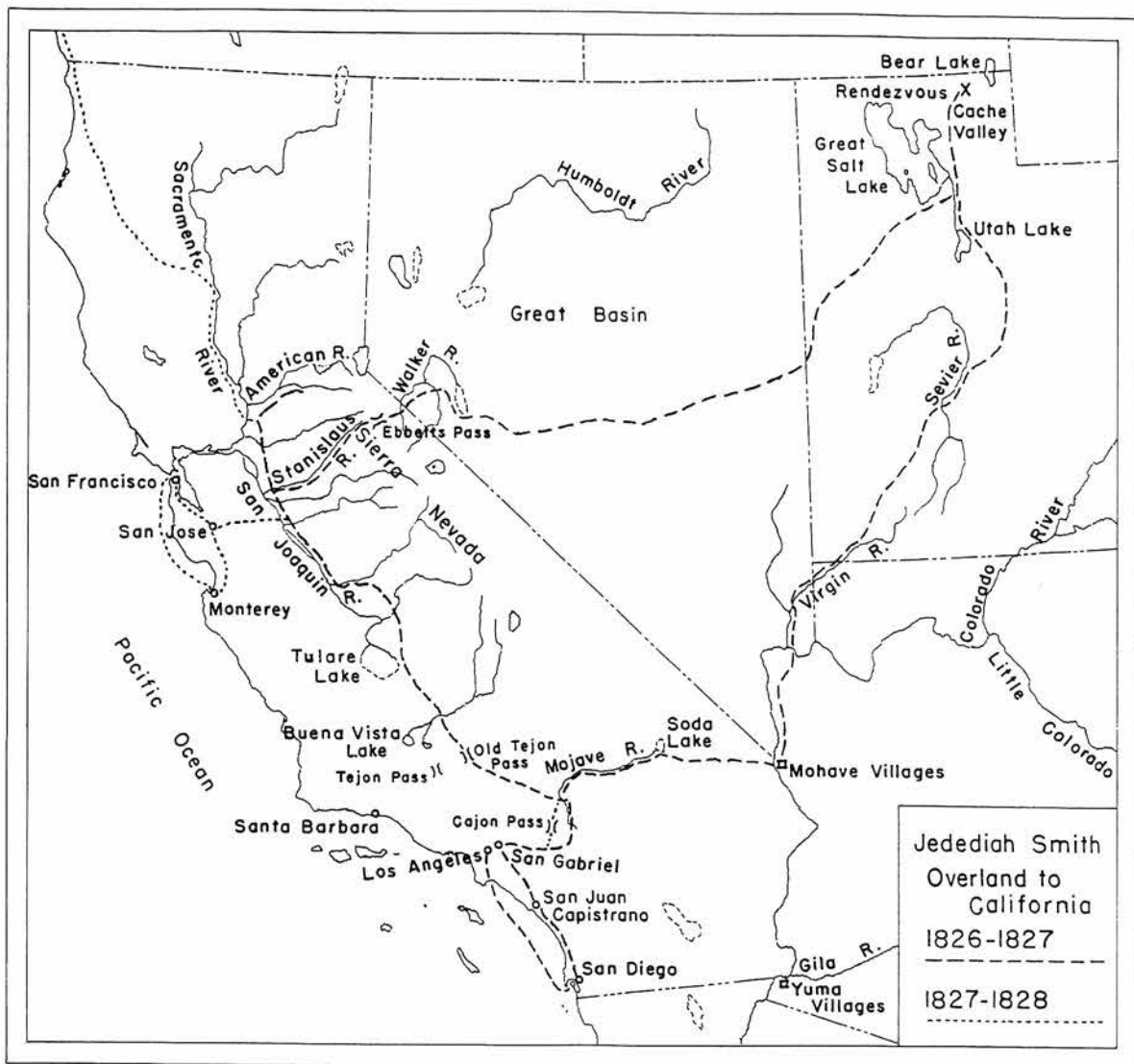
A year after Dale Morgan's benchmark biography, Morgan and Carl Wheat, the leading cartographic historian of the American West, combined their talents to produce *Jedediah Smith and his Maps of the American West* (San Francisco: The California Historical Society, 1954), a folio-size volume reproducing several rare mid-19th century maps that are believed to have been copied, at least in part, from Jedediah Smith's lost original maps. Equally as valuable as the maps are Morgan's essay on Smith and

Wheat's comments on the significance of the maps. This extremely valuable volume, produced in a limited edition, is a rare find today and commands a price in excess of \$400 from rare book dealers.

Next to appear was Alson J. Smith's *Men Against the Mountains: Jedediah Smith and the Southwest Expedition of 1826-1827* (New York: John Day, 1965), a well-written account of Smith's two excursions to California, based upon published sources and geared for the general reader. Of little value to the professional historian, it is nevertheless an interesting "read" for the Western history buff.

During the late 1960s and early '70s, the distinguished Utah historian Leroy R. Hafen edited the ten-volume *Mountain Men and Fur Traders of the Far West* (Glendale: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1965-72). Colorado historian Harvey L. Carter wrote a fine condensed biography of Jedediah Smith in Volume 8 of the series (1971). Fortunately, Carter's short but well-researched biography was reproduced in Hafen (editor), *Mountain Men and Fur Traders of the Far West: Eighteen Biographical Sketches* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1982), a soft-cover volume for the general reader.

In 1967, after most historians had given up on finding any more of Jedediah Smith's lost writings, a Smith descendent showed up at the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis with a trove of never before seen papers written by the now legendary mountain man. George R. Brooks, director of the Missouri Historical Society, was startled when he looked them over: The papers included a previously unknown journal written by Smith that covered his first expedition to California in 1826-27. The journal was part of a larger work assembled by Smith in 1830, a year before his sudden death at the hands of the Comanches, intended for a book never published. Brooks immediately realized the importance of the long lost journal and set to work editing it. The result, ten years later, was George R. Brooks (editor), *The Southwest Expedition of Jedediah S. Smith: His Personal Account of the Journey to California, 1826-1827* (Glendale:



The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1977). To complement Smith's journal, Brooks included Harrison Roger's day book entries, making this volume the most complete account of the famous first overland trip to California and a significant contribution to the history of Western exploration.

In his dealings with Mexican authorities in California, Smith presented himself as an innocent victim of circumstances, and most historians have tended to accept his version of events. Newly found documents in the Mexican archives present a different story, suggesting that Smith was more devious in

his dealings with Mexican officials than had been supposed. The documents, and some of Smith's own writings, reveal that he disregarded Mexican sovereignty in California, broke the rules and lied to officials and priests alike about his intentions. This revisionist interpretation of Smith's sojourns into Mexican California is well covered in David J. Weber's *The Californios versus Jedediah Smith, 1826-1827: A New Cache of Documents* (Spokane: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1990).

For a fuller understanding of the adventures of Jedediah Smith and the fascinating

era of mountain men in the Far West, books on Smith's associates and business partners need to be consulted, as well as general histories of the fur trade.

For William H. Ashley of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, Smith's first employer and later partner, see Richard M. Clokey, *William H. Ashley: Enterprise and Politics in the Trans-Mississippi West* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980), the only full-length biography. An excellent biographical sketch is Harvey L. Carter, "William H. Ashley", in Hafen (editor), *Mountain Men and the Fur Trade of the Far West* Volume 3. Much can be gleaned on Smith's Rocky Mountain experiences in Donald McKay Frost, *Notes on General Ashley, the Overland Trail, and South Pass* (Worcester: American Antiquarian Society, 1945), and Dale L. Morgan, *The West of William H. Ashley* (Denver: Old West Publishing Company, 1964). The latter oversized volume contains virtually all the known documentation of Ashley's years in the fur trade, with much on Smith's activities. As is characteristic of all Dale Morgan books, it is a monumental compilation with extensive annotation.

Andrew Henry, Ashley's original partner in the Rocky Mountain Fur Company has no full-length biography, The best source is Louis J. Clements' biographical sketch, "Andrew Henry," in Hafen (editor), *Mountain Men and the Fur Trade of the Far West*, Volume 6.

For Smith's associates in the partnership of Smith, Jackson, and Sublette, see John C. Jackson, *Shadow on the Tetons: David E. Jackson and the Claiming of the American West* (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1993), a full length biography. A biographical sketch is Carl D. W. Hayes, "David E. Jackson", in Hafen (editor) *Mountain Men and the Fur Trade of the Far West*, Volume 9. An excellent recent account of Jackson's adventures is Vivian Linford Talbot, *David E. Jackson: Field Captain of the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade* (Jackson, Wyoming: Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum, 1996). William Sublette is the

subject of one full-length biography, John E. Sunder's *Bill Sublette: Mountain Man* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1959).

Knowledge of the fur trade in the Far West as a whole is paramount to an understanding of the part played by Jedediah Smith and his associates. There are several books, some excellent, some adequate, that attempt to cover this subject. Already mentioned is Hiram Chittenden's monumental three-volume *The American Fur Trade of the Far West* (1902) which, although somewhat dated remains the cornerstone of any study of the fur trapping era in the West. The big flaw in Chittenden's study, his omission of the fur trade in the Southwest, is corrected by Robert Glass Cleland, *This Reckless Breed of Men: The Trappers and Fur Traders of the Southwest* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1950), and David J. Weber, *The Taos Trappers: The Fur Trade in the Far Southwest, 1540-1846* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1971). Paul Chrisler Phillips, *The Fur Trade* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1961) is an exhaustive fully documented two-volume history of the fur trade in North America, from the early French entrepreneurs to the English, Canadian and American trappers of the 1840s. Don Berry, *A Majority of Scoundrels: An Informal History of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company* (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1961) is written like a novel and geared to the general reader, as is Bernard DeVoto's *Across the Wide Missouri* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1947). Both the Berry and DeVoto books are splendid examples of literary craftsmanship and, although neither is annotated, both are guaranteed to get the reader "hooked" on the saga of the mountain men. David J. Wishart's *The Fur Trade of the American West, 1807-1840* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1979) gives an excellent overview of the Rocky Mountain trapping system. Fred R. Gowans' *Rocky Mountain Rendezvous: A History of the Fur Trade Rendezvous, 1825-1840* (Provo: Brigham Young University Press, 1976) covers the annual rendezvous of the trappers. Carl

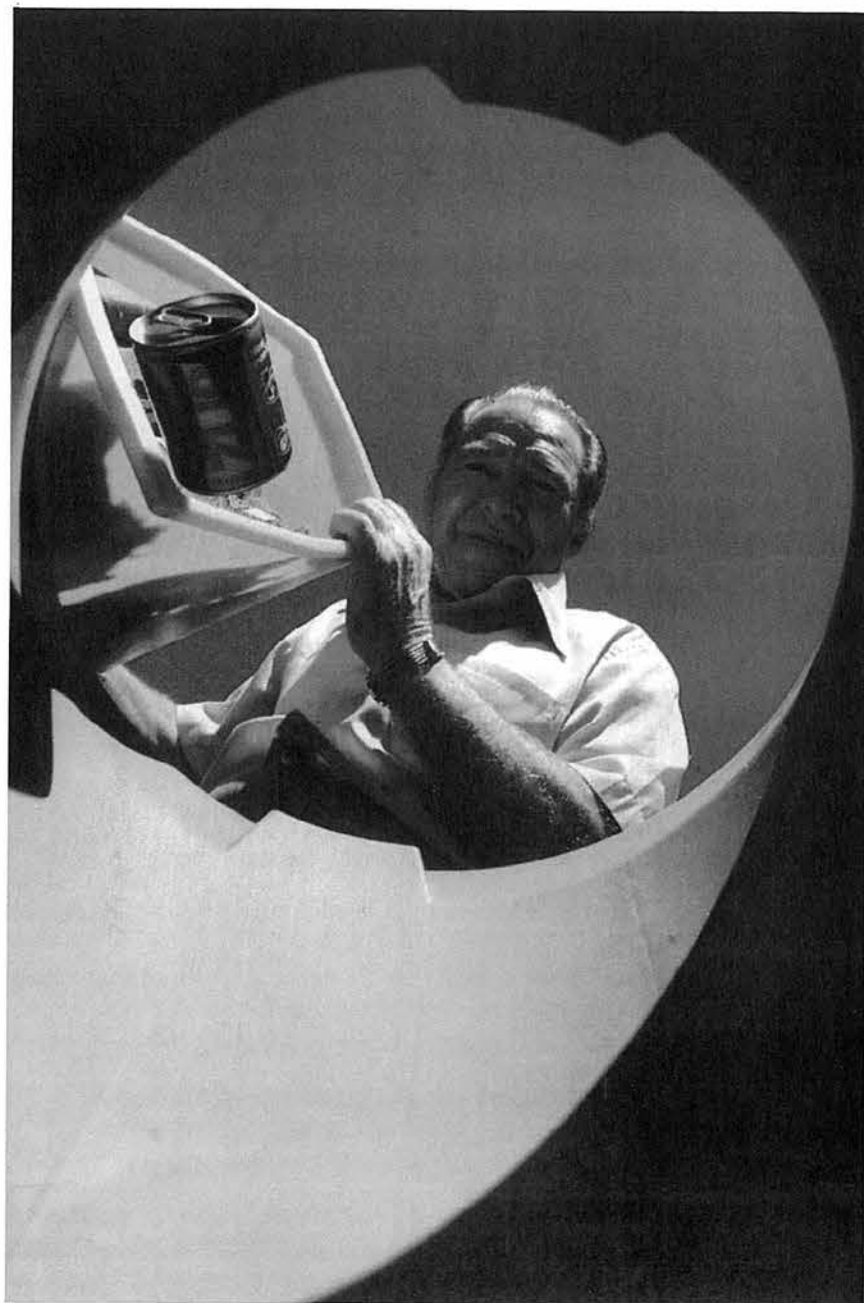


P. Russell's *Firearms, Traps and Tools of the Mountain Men* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1967) explains what the title suggests. Lewis O. Saum, *The Fur Trader and the Indian* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1965) explores the effect the mountain men had on Native Americans. The real victim of all this activity was the furry little beaver; Carl Burger's, *Beaver Skins and Mountain Men: The Importance of the Beaver in the Discovery, Exploration, and Settlement of the North American Continent* (New York: Dutton Company, 1968) covers this. Finally, the most recent history of the fur trade, Robert M. Utley's *A Life Wild and Perilous: Mountain Men and the Paths to the Pacific* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1997) is an excellent overview, fully annotated, of the mountain men and the trails they blazed to the western ocean. Utley, a former National Park Service historian and the foremost authority on the Indian wars of the West, has produced a volume that not only encompasses the latest scholarship on the fur trade, but also approaches the Berry and DeVoto books in literary craftsmanship.

Not mentioned here (to prevent this essay from approaching thesis length) are literally hundreds of periodical articles that delve into Jedediah Smith's short but adventure-filled life, his partners and associates, and the era of the mountain men in general. Few aspects of Western history have been so thoroughly covered, mostly in the last thirty

or forty years.

A Western history library is not worth its salt unless it includes at minimum two books on Jedediah Smith: Dale Morgan's definitive biography, *Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West*, and George Brooks' *The Southwest Expedition of Jedediah S. Smith: His Personal Account of the Journey to California, 1826-1827*. Fortunately, the University of Nebraska Press has performed a great public service by reprinting both of these volumes in inexpensive soft-cover editions. Nebraska has also made available Maurice Sullivan's *The Travels of Jedediah Smith: A Documentary Outline*; Harrison Dale's *The Ashley-Smith Explorations and the Discovery of a Central Route to the Pacific*, retitled *The Explorations of William H. Ashley and Jedediah Smith, 1822-1829*; and even Hiram Chittenden's classic *The American Fur Trade of the Far West* in two soft cover volumes. Two more soft cover issues of Nebraska are *Mountain Men and Fur Traders of the Far West: Eighteen Biographical Sketches*; and *Trappers of the Far West: Sixteen Biographical Sketches*; both excerpted from Leroy Hafen's ten volume *Mountain Men and the Fur Trade of the Far West*. Included are mini-biographies of Jedediah Smith, William Ashley, William Sublette and David Jackson. If your Western library is to include only one volume on the fur trade in general, it should be the latest and the best, Robert Utley's *A Life Wild and Perilous*.



Victorious Sam Yorty dumping mixed trash into a barrel

# Of Pigs & Politicians

*By Bill Warren*

The other day I came across a picture of Sam Yorty dumping garbage into a trash can, and it brought back memories. Sam Yorty ran for Mayor of the City of Los Angeles in 1961 on a platform of garbage. Not on a heap of the real thing, but on garbage reform. In this era before the garbage disposal became popular the citizens of the fair city were required to separate their garbage—trash and paper in one can, edible table scraps and other foodstuffs in another. No one liked this idea because garbage smelled, and many viewed this as another inconvenience dictated by politicians. So old Sam ran on the "one trash barrel" ticket and beat Norris Poulson, the incumbent mayor, by a whisker. People rejoiced.

At a meeting a few years ago, an engineer spoke about the reason for the unpopular separation requirement. The Sanitation Department trucked the edible wastes across the San Fernando Valley to Newhall, which had many pig ranches. The ranchers would buy these table scraps and feed them to the hogs.

Things went along fine for years until Los Angeles experienced an outbreak of trichinosis. This is a larval disease, often transmitted through undercooked meat, and could be deadly to children. Scientists traced the source back to the Newhall pigs and transmission among the herds by the city's garbage recycle. This was, of course, a source of annoyance to the pig ranchers. The garbage was a nice cheap source of feed. They did not want to abandon it. Then one day something truly terrible happened. A new strain of trichinosis developed, and horror of horrors, this one killed pigs! Something had to be done and fast!

The health authorities decided the solution was to cook the garbage for at least 30 minutes before feeding it to the animals.

This killed trichinosis larvae and eggs, but it meant the ranchers would have to install heating facilities. A large capital expense that no one wanted to pay was staring them in the eye.

Along came an enlightened mechanical engineer. He calculated the normal haul time from central Los Angeles to Newhall was close to an hour. He decided to experiment with one of the garbage hauling trucks and found that he could set up the engine so it ran well at a higher temperature, allowing cooling by ebullition. This meant replacing the normal radiator with a system that produced steam from the heat of the engine. The steam was piped back under the body of the truck and released through holes in a series of pipes running across the bed of the truck. As the garbage was trucked to Newhall, the steam would "cook" the garbage. They tested it and, by George, it worked! The garbage arrived in sterile form, breaking the trichinosis cycle, and saving the lives of countless pigs (not to mention kids).

That is not the end of the story. Pigs being pigs had always climbed on top of the garbage piles when the trucks unloaded in their yards. The hogs quickly discovered these new hot piles would burn their feet if they were not careful. They had to settle for nibbling around the edges as the piles cooled. Less garbage was trampled into the dirt and the pig ranchers got much higher utilization of feed. They were ecstatic.

By the time Sam Yorty came along, most pig ranchers had moved on as civilization crept closer. Pig farms leave a rich heritage but not one you want to simultaneously share. Smiling Sam got the credit for solving Los Angeles' garbage problem, but it was only after engineers had already "cooked up" a real solution."

*(Monthly Roundup continued from page 2)*

to enable him to back on to the shunt line, he accidentally released the air brakes. With no means to control the locomotive, it plunged forward and crashed into the concrete barrier at the end of the tracks.

Fletcher Swan, a young man who had started working for Santa Fe as a wiper when he was nineteen and had advanced to higher positions, was called upon to photograph the scene. Fletcher had started taking railroad photos as a hobby when he was 15, because of his ability, the company utilized him to document the scene with his 4 x 5 Speedgraphic.

After the ICC investigated the accident, the locomotive was hauled from the scene. It took five hours to remove it from its aerie and set it up on tracks. It was taken to the round house, repaired and back in service within a week. However, a year later it was involved in an accident near Azusa. A section of missing track caused the train to derail. Of the 226 passengers, 17 were injured. The accident tied up the main line for 12 hours: traffic was rerouted through Fullerton. An investigation found no foul play.

Slides of Fletcher Swan's photographs and other visual materials helped clearly explain the events and the technical aspects.

Afterwards, Locomotive 19 operated for the next five years with no more excitement. After a checkered career, it was finally assigned to yard work and was serving in New Iberia, LA, when it was scrapped in 1987. The engineer, Fred Hertz, committed suicide a few years after the accident, and his son entered railroading. Fletcher Swan left railroading and entered the family business, but still maintains his interest in photography.

### NOVEMBER MEETING

Paul Spitzzeri, graduate student at Cal State Fullerton and employee at the Workman-Rowland Homestead, stepped into the gap when the scheduled speaker had to cancel due to a personal tragedy and entertained the Corral with an overview of one of the area's famous pio-



Photograph by Frank Q. Newton

November Meeting Speaker Paul Spitzzeri

neers, William Workman.

William Workman, born in England in 1800, moved to the United States, then across the country to St. Louis and Taos by 1824. In Taos, he engaged in trade with John Rowland. Although he was married to a Hispanic woman, after the Texas-Santa Fe Expedition, he became suspect like all foreigners. Anticipating trouble, he and Rowland left Taos for California in 1841. They arrived in California about the same time as the Bartlett-Bidwell party, which is generally considered the first overland wagon train to arrive.

After arriving in California, they quickly adapted and asked for a land grant on the former Mission San Gabriel. They became rancheros but also engaged in growing wheat and viticulture.

The men became active in California affairs, including joining in the rebellion against Governor Micheltorena. During the US-Mexican War, they sided with the Americans and after the uprising against Gillespie in Los Angeles, they were captured at Wilson's Ranch with other Americans.

During the drought of the 1860s, the ranching industry was destroyed. They turned to growing grain and established a mill which was very successful.

With the return of prosperity, Workman had his adobe converted into an English country manor. He did not get to enjoy it



long, because he joined with Isaias Hellman and Francis Temple in the banking business. Hellman soon bought his partners out, and they opened another bank. Because of poor banking practices they were soon in trouble. They borrowed from "Lucky" Baldwin, who in spite of great leniency, had to foreclose. Faced with the loss of almost everything and public humiliation, Workman killed himself.

The Workman home changed hands several times, but finally a grandson was able to redeem it. The family remained active in community affairs, and one son served as mayor of Los Angeles.

Mr. Spitzzeri's great knowledge and slides made for an entertaining and enlightening evening. The Corral thanks him for filling in.



Musicians entertaining Corral Members

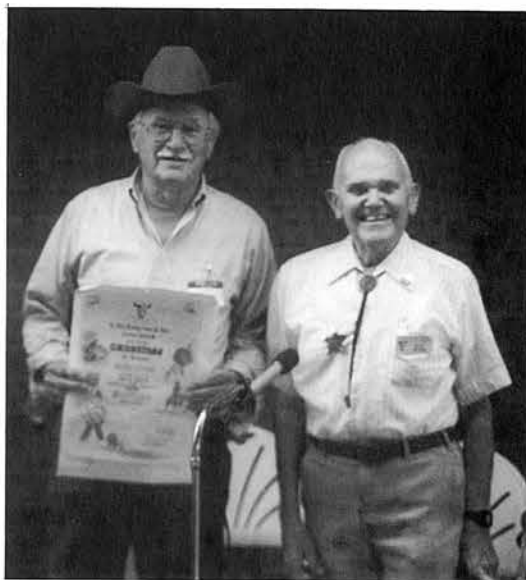
## Rendezvous 1999

Once again the Corral gathered at the Bent Adobe for the annual meeting of the members in fun, frolic and and serious competition at the auction.

In addition to the auction and the raffles for the Dagosta paintings, the members enjoyed music throughout the afternoon. They also enjoyed the benefits of the new sun screen overhead.

Recognition was given to honored guest Tom Bent and Loren Wendt was awarded his Grub Stake and advanced to Associate.

Head Wrangler, Gary Turner, extends his thanks to all those who helped set up, sell raffle tickets, prepare name tags, tend bar, manned tables for various activities and most of all for those who helped clean up.



Loren Wendt holding his Grubstake just awarded him by Sheriff Ray Peter.



Sheriff Ray Peter awarding honored guest, Tom Bent his plaque.



**Raymond J. Nicholson**  
**1915-1999**

Raymond J. Nicholson, long time active member of the Los Angeles Corral, passed away on October 22, 1999. He lived all of his life in Long Beach, California, where he was born on December 29, 1915. He graduated from UCLA in 1937 and began his long career in the aviation world. In 1941 he began a 34-year stint with Douglas Aircraft.

Ray received his Grubstake in the Los Angeles Corral on July 9, 1975. It marked the beginning of a true Westerner who was always ready to volunteer his assistance to help the Corral.

For many years, one could observe Ray busy at regular monthly meetings handling the slide projector, adjusting the screen or recording the speaker's talks. At annual Rendezvous meetings held each October, Ray was usually the first to arrive and one of the last to leave.

Ray loved adventure and taught his children early how to camp, hike and fish. He also turned his talents to photography. As

an artist, his talents extended to cabinet making and music. Although he was tone deaf and couldn't sing a note, he was a pianist and organist. He shared these talents with his family. He took exceptional delight in his grandchildren's musical adventures on the stage and never missed a performance.

Ray had a great love for California and Western history. His library was full of books about the state. He was a former President of the Long Beach Historical Society. As a docent at Rancho Los Cerritos, he regaled the visitors with more facts about the Ranchos than they probably ever wanted to know.

Ray's legacy of stories about life in early Long Beach and his father's adventures as an immigrant from Bulgaria will leave his family with a sense of history that will be passed along to future generations.

Hugh Tolford



## Corral Chips



**PAUL SPITZZERI**, graduate student at CSU, Fullerton, was the first place winner of the 1999 Student Essay Contest. His paper on regulating the railroads will be published in the Spring issue. Second place winner, Michael M. Tripp will be presented to the Corral next month.

**DR. DOYCE B. NUNIS, JR.** gave the inaugural George Dunning Address for the Historical Society of Southern California. Too many members to mention were in the audience.

**RAY PETER, BILL NEWBRO, LARRY**

**JOHNSTON** and **DEE DEE RUHLOW** attended the Death Valley Sesquicentennial celebration. **GLENN THORNHILL** was present for the Clamper's plaque presentation.

**ROBERT SCHWEMMER** presented a paper at the Society for Historical Archaeology in Salt Lake and will present another at the next meeting in Quebec. He also presented a paper to the Chinese American Society.

**RANGER ACTIVE W. BRUCE WALTON** died in November.

**CM HENRY W. WRIGHT** has passed away.

**CM L.P. JIM CORBETT** died at the age of 100 years and 10 months.

**CM JOHN J. WALLER** died on December 18.

## Directory Changes

### Changes in Status To Active

Willis Osborne  
Robert Schemmer

### To Associate

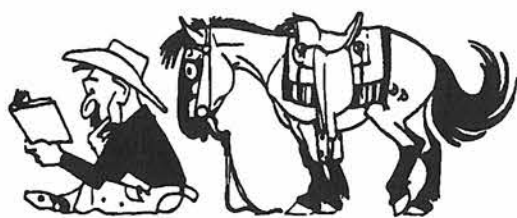
Christie Bourdet  
Louis C. Bourdet  
Regis M. Graden  
Amy Lebenzon  
David W. Pann  
Loren R. Wendt

### Address Change

Gordon M. Bakken  
2517 E. Santa Ysabel Avenue  
Fullerton, CA 92831

### New Member

Paul R. Spitzzeri  
4455 Sawgrass Court  
Chino Hills, CA 91709-3386



## DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL ...

*The person who does not read is no better off than the person who cannot read--Abby Van Buren.*

JEDEDIAH SMITH AND HIS MONUMENTS, compiled by Raymund F. Wood. Bicentennial Edition, 1799-1999. revised and enlarged. Stockton: Jedediah Smith Society, 1999. 80 pp. Illustrations. Paper, \$26.95 Order from University of the Pacific—Bookstore, Stockton, CA 95211. (209) 946-2450.

When Ray Wood passed to the Golden Hills on April 4, 1998, he had already made a mockery of the word "retirement." Ray was fully occupied with book reviews, articles, presentations, travel, grandchildren and plenty of other activities to keep him and his wife Margaret very busy. One of his last projects was a revision of *Jedediah Smith and His Monuments*, first published in 1984. The original edition listed 31 monuments to the pioneer trapper and explorer, providing detailed information on each monument's location, when it was erected, who put it up and any factual errors about them.

For this revised edition, the number of monuments has more than doubled, partly because of new ones being placed, old ones being identified, and a more generous definition of "monument" that now includes geographical place names, schools named for Smith, "and even restaurants" (one example is Jedediah's House of Sourdough in Jackson, Wyoming). Smith monuments can be found in California, Utah, Wyoming, Kansas, South Dakota, Oregon, Nevada and his birthplace in New York. By far the greatest number are in California, with no less than fifteen in San Bernardino County alone.

Anyone planning a trip through California and the neighboring states would find the variety of monuments fascinating. The book's directions make them easy to locate. A trip to Smith's birthplace, however, would seem to be on the order of a pilgrimage. The search and research for the Smith monuments was clearly a fun project that Ray enjoyed, and the volume is its own monument to Ray's life of scholarship.

Abraham Hoffman



JOHN ROWLAND AND WILLIAM WORKMAN, *Southern California Pioneers of 1841* by Donald E. Rowland. Spokane: The Arthur H. Clark Company and the Historical Society of Southern California 1999. 223 pp. Illustrations, Maps, Notes, Bibliography. Cloth, \$32.00. Order from the Historical Society of Southern California, 200 East Avenue 43, Los Angeles, CA 90031, (323) 222-0546.

William Workman and John Rowland were at the cutting edge of early American settlement in the southwest. They rubbed shoulders with many of the key personalities of that era like Kit Carson, James Ohio Pattie, John C. Fremont and Pio Pico. They were centerstage during the chaotic events surrounding early fur trapping years in Taos and Santa Fe, the perils associated with the Mexican-American War, and the slow demise of the ranchos. Donald Rowland's animated narrative brings these events and people to life, capturing the spirit of their times.

The author studiously places the Workman-Rowland party within the context of settlement rather than exploration. The 1841 overland migration was a significant turning point in the westward movement. Along with the Bidwell-Bartleson party, Workman and Rowland sought a permanent home in the Far West, which represented a far different approach than quick profits and a brief stay envisioned by most trappers and traders of a previous era.

Workman and Rowland fled New Mexico and followed the Old Spanish Trail



to Los Angeles. They had been deeply involved in Santa Fe politics and commerce, but intrigue and gringo resentment made life too dangerous to remain in New Mexico. Similar dangers emerged in southern California during the 1840s. Their patriotic exuberance during the Mexican-American War led to incarceration and the threat of execution. Later, protracted battles over land grants made them unlikely symbols of the injustices of American jurisprudence. In the two decades after statehood, their position as a landed gentry represented a fading pastoral era in southern California history.

This attractive hardbound edition is the seventeenth entry in Arthur H. Clark Company's Western Frontier Series and specially benefits from the support and oversight of the Historical Society of Southern California. Over two dozen illustrations, copious notes, and an extensive bibliography of secondary and primary sources complement this entry. Editing by Doyce B. Nunis Jr. and Thomas Andrews provide the meticulous scholarship that makes this work particularly satisfying to the student of this period. *John Rowland and William Workman, Southern California Pioneers of 1841* is a valuable complement to our understanding of early American settlement on the southern California frontier.

Ronald C. Woolsey



FRONTIER AND REGION: *Essays in Honor of Martin Ridge*, edited by Robert C. Ritchie and Paul Andrew Hutton. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1997. 263 pp. Index. Cloth, \$29.95. Order from University of New Mexico Press, 1720 Lomas Blvd., NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87131-1591, (800) 249-7737.

This is a collection of essays honoring Martin Ridge on the occasion of his retirement as senior research associate at the Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino. These papers reflect the vitality of the field in which the honoree dedicated his long and fruitful career.

Divided into four sections, one each for "Locating the West," the "Political West," the "Popular West" and the "Historiographical West," the 261 page book addresses a wide spectrum of interest, including "just where the west is," the influence of political parties "as the proper vehicle for change," the "key figures as they emerged in the frontier legends" and the place of "historical romanticism about the west." While the authors express differing viewpoints on the nature of the overall field, they are united by their commitment to the importance of the West.

Each reader will find a favorite among the essays. Mine was Walter Nugent's essay on development as exemplified by such places as Pasadena, California, an "Indiana colony," which demonstrates the motives, means and ingenuity of the old-time propagandists. A runner-up Hurtado's superb account of the so-called "Drake Plate of Brass" which captivated even such prominent scholars as Herbert Eugene Bolton.

There's something for everyone in this anthology, from Annie Oakley to Buffalo Bill to the senate debate on plans for constructing an artificial lake in the Hetch Hetchy Valley of Yosemite National Park. Happily, my own hero, Ray Allen Billington, receives much attention and credit for extending, by another nineteen years, the work of Frederick Jackson Turner at the Huntington Library.

Typically, Festschrifts are boring, lack cohesion and add little to the overall reputation of the honoree. This book is a happy exception, probably because the genius of the "master" rubbed-off on his twelve apostles.

Msgr. Francis J. Weber



CALIFORNIA PROGRESSIVISM REVISITED, edited by William Deverell and Tom Sitton. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994. 279 pp. Notes, Index. Cloth, \$40; paper, \$15. Order from University of California Press 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94720, (800) 777-4726.

Almost half a century ago historian George Mowry followed his 1946 *Theodore Roosevelt, and the Progressive Movement with The California Progressives*. Over the ensuing decades *California Progressives* has influenced generations of historians and shaped the way textbook histories of the state have treated the Progressive Era. Times change, however, and in the 1990s a new generation of scholars are "revisiting" California progressivism. Taking Mowry's book as their starting point, eleven scholars explore aspects of the topic Mowry neglected or ignored. Always respectful of Mowry's contribution, these scholars open exciting avenues of investigation and research into a very fascinating era.

A brief listing of the contributors and their essays quickly reveals how far historical inquiry has come since *The California Progressives* was published in 1951. Mowry viewed progressive leaders as elite, white, Republican Protestant business and professional men. He did not consider the roles of women, men who did not fit his profile, African Americans, Mexican Americans, Democrats, Socialists or areas of reform that would have expanded his definition of progressivism. These omissions are the topics covered in this book. Tom Sitton draws upon the research for his biography of John Randolph Haynes to assess the contributions of the "left wing" of California progressivism. Anne F. Hyde examines the enigma of William Kent who exhibited many of the characteristics of progressivism but was a Democrat who supported construction of the Hetch Hetchy Dam. Mary Ann Mason looks into the connections between the state's labor unions and the progressives. William Deverell compares the progressive positions of the Democrats and sees them as the "neglected twin" of the state's progressive movement. Gerald Woods assesses the reforms of the progressives that went well beyond the familiar refrain of "initiative, referendum, and recall" to evaluate the progressive stand on prostitution, gambling and other "disreputable pleasures."

Three articles deal with the role of

women in the progressive moment. Sherry Katz discusses the involvement of socialist women in progressive reforms, while Judith Raftery traces the efforts of Los Angeles clubwomen. Mary Odem provides a perspective on the campaign to provide suitable reforms in the treatment of delinquent girls. Two contributions consider topics almost totally neglected in studies of progressivism: Douglas Flamming explores the connections of African Americans to progressivism, and George J. Sanchez considers the fascinating and overlooked efforts of Mexican Americans to bridge two cultures. Finally, Jackson K. Putnam traces the legacy of California progressivism down to 1967 and the election of Ronald Reagan who ushered in a new brand of state politics.

In all of these studies, the Southern Pacific Railroad's alleged control of the state goes practically unmentioned, and Hiram Johnson is at best a minor player. This should alert readers that this book is definitely a new look at California progressivism, not just a revisiting but an opening to fresh interpretations and discovery. As such, the book has its own limitations. African Americans in progressive Los Angeles are discussed, but their presence in the San Francisco Bay Area awaits investigation. Deverell notes that Meyer Lissner "is an explicably understudied figure from this period in California politics," and he remains so, an important person in search of a biographer. How smaller cities and towns accepted or rejected progressive reforms could have been another article (or even a book). But then, it wasn't the purpose of this book to be definitive. Expertly edited by Deverell and Sitton, *California Progressivism Revisited* will be an eye-opener to anyone whose understanding of the era has been based on traditional treatments of the topic.

Abraham Hoffman



A SAW, POCKET INSTRUMENTS, AND TWO OUNCES OF WHISKEY: *Frontier Medicine in the Great Basin*, by Anton Paul Sohn. Spokane:

Arthur H. Clark Company, 1998. 237 pp. Illustrations, Appendices, Bibliography, Index. Order from Arthur H. Clark Company, P.O. Box 14707, Spokane, WA 99214-0707. (800) 842-9286.

*Frontier Military Medicine in the Great Basin* offers what its title suggests. This book gives a different perspective on Army medicine, the history of the forts in the Great Basin and a history of the times.

The book is divided into three sections. The first is a history of the founding of Great Basin forts before the Civil War to 1893. These forts ranged from Utah's Great Salt Lake to Fort Independence in California to Fort Harney in Oregon. The forts were built to protect the great western expansion. The book demonstrates the planning and building of the medical facilities from the medical officers' point of view. The stories of the founding of a fort explain the beginning from a few simple shelters to completion. This reader found the conditions of starting these outposts to be much more difficult than was thought. In all the plans, the medical facility and the doctor were part of an accepted plan, including ventilation per patient, square footage and available window openings. He was also responsible for sanitation and the safety of the drinking water. The doctors were required to record the weather and other conditions at the fort.

The second section of the book concerns the closure of these historic forts. As the Indian hostilities became history, the need of an Army presence was reduced. This period starts in 1866 and concludes in 1893. In this section of the book, the reader learns more of the history of each fort's medical facility and operation. The records presented show the doctor's staff and the procedures used to record the medical condition of each fort.

The author, a historian in the History of Medicine Program at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, tells of the changes in the practice of medicine during the interesting period in the third section of the book. This reader found this the most interesting part of the book. The chapters discuss the training and selection of Army

doctors. Their selection was based on a rigorous testing of their medical and academic training. In time of the Army's need, physicians who did not pass the test were accepted as temporary doctors. Many of them worked for many years for the Army. The select few who passed the tests were commissioned and had full military benefits. In the years covered by this book, many doctors were trained by apprenticeship, others went to medical school and some were apparently self-taught.

These doctors went from a system of medicine which started with no knowledge of sepsis to antiseptics, from whiskey to chloroform and to opiates and to new surgical techniques. The section of the book includes rather complete records of the illness at each fort and the mortality and morbidity of the soldiers. An interesting side-light is the importance of the physicians responsibilities for sanitation, diet and morale. The episodes retold give the reader an insight into these times. Sexually transmitted disease, alcoholism and injuries caused by gun shots not in fired battle kept the doctors busy. Many other diseases, now known with different names, also took their toll.

The presentation of this book is traditional with conservative binding and printing. It is well done with an extensive appendix of medical records from many forts over a period of years. I recommend this book for any interested in the medicine of the west, the training and practice of physicians and the progress of medicine over the years covered. Also, it gives important insights into living and working in a fort of the Great Plains.

Karl Schiller



WOMEN OF THE GOLD RUSH: *The New Penelope and Other Stories*, by Frances Fuller Victor, edited by Ida Rae Egli. Berkeley: Heyday Books, 1998. 159 pp. Paper, \$12.95. Order from Heyday Books, P.O. Box 9145, Berkeley, CA 94709, (510) 549-3564.

In this sesquicentennial year of the California Gold Rush, Frances Fuller Victor's collection, *The New Penelope and Other Stories* provides a wonderful window into the hearts and souls of women on the Western frontier. Originally published in 1877, Victor's characters and their struggles read timelessly, speaking to us in voices we might recognize today.

This slim volume, containing a novella and four short stories, opens with editor Ida Rae Egli's biographical introduction. This nicely outlines the context for Victor's successful writing career, which blossomed after her arrival in San Francisco in 1863. She later moved to Portland and wrote extensively about the history of the Northwest. Victor also wrote the Oregon volumes of the Bancroft Histories, although Bancroft denied her authorship credit.

Egli describes Victor as a historian who dealt with primary sources and shunned "remembered history." Her personal experiences and sharp perceptions of the West give her fiction an immediacy and truthfulness that makes for lively reading over 100 years after its original publication.

In the novella, *The New Penelope*, Mrs. Grayfield loosely resembles Homer's Penelope. She struggles in an impossible domestic situation, using her courage and intelligence to free herself. Victor's heroines are all highly intelligent and resourceful. They had to be to survive in the physical and social isolation of the frontier. Interestingly, while her characters often rail against their powerlessness, Victor did not feel women should necessarily be given the right to vote.

In addition to strong characters, lonesome landscapes and perilous weather are integral parts in her stories. In "How Jack Hastings Sold His Mine," the extremes of the land match the extremes Mrs. Hastings must go to save her marriage. In the haunting and intensely romantic "An Old Fool," a destructive storm brings together a woman and an older man who has loved her from afar.

This is not to say that Victor's stories are grave. To the contrary, she writes with a wit that had me laughing out loud. She also eas-

ily pins down a character's essence in very few words. Of the contentious Miss Jorgensen, she writes: "She never entered or left a room without somehow disturbing the mental atmosphere of it."

This is a wonderful collection. Frances Fuller Victor's stories brim with intensity, intelligence, violence, romance and humor—a lot like the Old West.

Amy Lebenzon



RUSH FOR RICHES: *Gold Fever and the Making of California*, by J. S. Holliday. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999. 355 pp. Maps, Illustrations, Notes, Sources, Appendix, Index. Cloth, \$55; paper, \$29.95. Order from University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94720, (510) 643-5036.

Jim Holliday should be familiar to anyone with an interest in California history. Former Director of the California Historical Society and the Oakland Museum, he has lectured widely and appeared in TV documentaries. His 1981 book *The World Rushed In: The California Gold Rush Experience* detailed an account of one 49er's diary and letters, augmented by others, as he struggled towards and finally with gold fever.

This new volume is a well researched expansion of the early California experience. Printed in Italy in a phonebook size format, it includes many illustrations and useful maps. The soft bound book seems an incredible bargain at \$30.

Now here's my suggestion. Reading the first chapter called "Before the World Rushed In" (I wonder where he got that title?) almost turned me off. It is a polemic of political correctness on how the native population was abused by the Spaniards. It then occurred to me this was simply the obligatory Southern California bashing which seems necessary for Northern California writers. With that in mind then, it's my recommendation the reader start with Chapter 2, "Free for All."

Here the meat of the book begins. A key



in the development of California was a decision of Military Governor Richard Mason in the summer of 1848. Mason wrote his Eastern superiors, "Upon considering the large extent of the country, the character of the people engaged and the small scattered force at my command, I resolve not to interfere but to permit all to work freely." This opened the state for development without government constraint, a truly unique situation. The extraction of gold began as a movable individual feast, but changed into cooperative ventures as those methods became more efficient. As the population exploded, so did the need for support and a whole culture of satisfying miner's needs helped spread the wealth within this almost exclusively male culture.

Holliday does a fine job of documenting changes occurring in California right through the 1880's. Placer and sluice based mining gave way to corporate hydraulics, which eventually dominated. At the same time, agricultural interests developed at a rate finally topping the yearly value of gold extracted. Yet agricultural forces were held in check by a miner-dominated state legislature which allowed them to be buried under hydraulic slickers and tailings, bringing annual floods. This tense conflict is carefully documented right through the final 1884 court decision which tolled the end of mining's domination of California's economy.

Holliday's notes and bibliography are extensive and unobtrusive. The book uses direct quotes sparingly but effectively. It's a great story, brought together in a stylish manner by an accomplished author.

Bill Warren



PROTECTING PARADISE: *Yosemite Rangers 1898-1960* by Shirley Sargent. Yosemite: Ponderosa Press, 1998. 146 pp. Illustrations, Appendices, Notes, Biographies, Index, Maps. Hard cover, \$24.95. Order from Ponderosa Press, P.O. Box 278, Yosemite, CA 95389.

Shirley Sargent continues her series of

books about Yosemite with stories of rangers who worked in the beautiful Yosemite Valley from 1898 to 1960. Her decision to end her story in 1960 was because the National Park Service instituted a policy of lateral transfers of personnel, which caused such a brief tenure of Yosemite rangers that it became impossible to monitor them.

The story covers many of the early events that took place in Yosemite since its creation as a National Park on September 30, 1890. Shirley describes many of the early day rangers and their contributions to the Park Service and the visitors. She tells about the building of new roads making it easier for visitors to gain access to the valley and the changes since the first automobiles were allowed in the park in 1913. As an example of what a change the automobile had on the park, by the Memorial Day weekend of 1927 over 3,000 autos entered the Valley on each day of the three-day holiday.

Stories about daring rescues and long ten-day horse back patrols into the back country of Yosemite Park gives the readers a glimpse of the every day work of the rangers. Many prominent guests, including Eleanor Roosevelt, visited Yosemite and the rangers were expected to watch over and entertain them during their visits. The book also covers disasters that have plagued the valley over the years.

Shirley Sargent has done a wonderful job in telling the stories of the men and women who have dedicated their careers to the well being of the Yosemite Valley. She truly makes you feel like you're there being part of a rescue or patrol. Anyone interested in Yosemite will consider this book a must for his collection.

Other books of Yosemite by Shirley Sargent include *John Muir in Yosemite*, 1971; *Yosemite, A National Treasure*, 1988; and *Yosemite and Its Innkeepers*, 1979. A free catalog is available from Ponderosa Press.

Paul H. Rippens



ONE STEP FROM THE WHITE HOUSE: *The Rise and Fall of Senator William F. Knowland* by

Gayle B. Montgomery and James W. Johnson. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998. 361 pp. Illustrations, Notes, Bibliography, Index. Cloth, \$29.95. Order from University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94720, (510) 643-0682.

This story of the son of a politician-newspaper editor by two journalists and political insiders tells the tale of William Fife Knowland. Born in 1908, Knowland grew up in the shadow of his father, editor of the Republican mouthpiece *Oakland Tribune*, youngest member of the California Assembly at 25, State Senator in 1902, member of the United States House of Representatives in 1903 and active mover and shaker in the Republican Party. William would eclipse his father, fall from grace, and blow his brains out in 1974 in debt, in another failed marriage and impaired by ego and addiction.

William F. Knowland had a spectacular political career. He set a new record as the youngest to enter in California Assembly at age 24 in 1932. In 1934 he would win a State Senate seat with the full support of his father's newspaper and "the first modern negative political campaign." [p.24] Senator Knowland would campaign to keep Tom Mooney in jail and fail. He supported Earl Warren and helped found the California Republican Assembly to manage politics. In 1938 he became the youngest member of the Republican National Committee. During World War II he built a war record as a staff officer and returned to California to be appointed in 1945 to Hiram Johnson's vacant U.S. Senate seat.

In the Senate he became "Mr. Integrity." But Bill started to back losers such as the "back to the mainland" China policy. He trusted Richard Nixon in 1952. In 1953 he took over Robert Taft's majority leader position and made a career out of splitting the Republican Party whether run by Ike or Dick Nixon.

In private life, Knowland was not "Mr. Integrity." Rather he took "many lovers and one-night stands." [p. 227] He became

addicted to gambling. He could not manage money and was frequently in substantial debt. He was a clearly not very bright, yet did very little to use staff to support his public image. His suicide was the logical culmination of an unhappy life, perhaps made doubly so by Taft's failure to put him on the ticket as Vice President, failure to win election, and die conveniently to make Bill President of the United States. He could have been one heart beat away from the White House.

This is a even-handed book with Knowland portrayed as leader and failure, a true conservative Republican. The book would have been substantially advanced by frequent reference to Jackson K. Putnam's *Modern California Politics* and other basic works on the subject. Democratic Party failures and structural changes are infrequently noted amid Republican Party genius and schism. The authors do give substantial credit to Lyndon Johnson in legislative halls, but infrequently analyze the changes in the party in California.

Gordon Morris Bakken



RED BLOOD AND BLACK INK: *Journalism in the Old West*, by David Dary. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998. 345pp. Illustrations, Appendixes, Notes, Bibliography, Index. Cloth, \$42. Order from Alfred A. Knopf, Publisher, New York, New York.

Imagine opening your Sunday *Los Angeles Times* and reading one month old news stories from the East Coast and Europe. No reporters by-lines are in sight because editors wrote the articles, heavily laden with their opinions. Later, for an afternoon's entertainment, you might walk down to the corner and watch the editor fight a duel over his views with a disgruntled reader or rival editor.

These were some of the qualities of early newspapers in the West as described in vivid detail by David Dary in his excellent book, *Red Blood and Black Ink: Journalism in the Old West*. Using many colorful and informative excerpts from newspapers, Dary chronicles

the development of a vigorous press west of the Mississippi.

At first, Western newspapers modeled Eastern papers but later developed a distinctive style, one that included strong language, humor and exaggeration, if necessary. Western editors never minced words when they felt strongly about a cause, such as the debate over slavery in Kansas, and they often slugged it out in print: "We are onto the lopeared, lantern-jawed, half-bred and half-born whiskeysoaked, pox-eaten pup who pretends to edit that worthless wad of subdued paper known as the Ingalls Messenger." Libel laws were not a problem until the 1890's.

In chapters colorfully titled "No Weasel Words" and "Pistol-Packin' Editors", Dary skillfully delineates the emergence of the editor from individuals who were more printers than writers to leaders in the community, opinion molders and political forces in their own right.

Editors contributed to the development of the West in many ways, including "booming" or promoting the settlements where they published. The town's success was crucial for readership. Prone to exaggeration, one editor boasted that his town was so wonderful that the sheriff "found it difficult to make a living."

As editors evolved, so did their papers. The emergence of reporters, the separation of fact and opinion and the use of personal, gossipy items to attract readers are also detailed. One chapter describes the many contributions of women editors, including Mrs. Sarah Moore Clarke, who founded the *Contra Costa* in Oakland, California, in 1854.

Helpful appendixes explain various printing presses and terms. Also valuable for researchers is the last appendix which arranges early publications by geographical location.

This book is informative and very entertaining, even if some of the sources are quite long. Dary argues that early newspapers are under-utilized by researchers and, after reading his book, one will agree these sources hold many riches for people who

seek the flavor of daily life in the early West.  
Amy Lebenzon



THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WESTERN RAILROAD HISTORY, VOLUME IV, *California* by Donald R. Robertson. Caldwell: Caxton Press, 1998. 354 pp. Illustrations, Maps, Graphs, Charts, Index. Cloth, \$42.95. Order from Caxton Press, 312 Main Street, Caldwell, ID 83605-3299, (208) 459-7421

This encyclopedia of California railroads has been helpful to me in researching such railroads as the Gualala railroad that hauled lumber on the Sonoma coast to little coastal lumber ships. Another railroad I was interested in was the Ludlow and Southern which ran eight miles to nowhere in the desert out of Ludlow (54 miles south of Barstow).

This book is not for the average Western historian. It is not a book one would sit down and read either. This is a research book for a "true" railroad historian. It is a shame the photographic reproduction is so poor. There are many good photographs in this book. Some (top, page 78) have no information under the picture, which is also a real shame.

The author expended a great amount of time and effort in compiling this compendium of over 400 railroads that operated in California. I, for one, never knew there were that many railroads in railroad history of California.

This Volume IV of Mr. Robertson's *Encyclopedia of Western Railroads* is most likely the completion of this monumental research of Western railroads.

Bob "Choo Choo" Kern

### Briefly Noted

From Heyday Books comes a major anthology of contemporary California poetry, *The Geography of Home: California's Poetry of Place*. Seventy-six poets are represented here, offering from three to six poems each about California. The anthology includes

biographical profiles about each poet. For anyone whose familiarity with California poetry doesn't extend beyond Robinson Jeffers, this anthology provides the opportunity to experience the vitality of a modern generation of the state's poets. The 445-page paperback costs \$16.95. Order from Heyday Books, P.O. Box 9145, Berkeley, CA 94709, (510) 549-3564.

In observance of the hundredth anniversary of the Spanish-American War, Texas A&M University Press issued an updated edition of *An Army For Empire: The United States Army in the Spanish-American War*, by Graham A. Cosmas. First published in 1971, the book provides a well-written, well-researched account of the war from the military point of view. The War Department has long been blamed for the mismanagement of the war in terms of supply and leadership, but Cosmas disputes this criticism. He argues, quite effectively, that the McKinley Administration provided too little and demanded too much from the Army. Apart from the U.S.'s overwhelming victory against Spain, the Army's difficulties in conducting its campaigns led to major reforms in the new century. In paperback at \$17.95. Order from Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843-4354 (409) 845-1436.

Recent scholarship on Mexican American history has revised old stereotypes and brought fresh interpretations to an increasingly popular area of interest. *Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the Politics of Ethnicity*, by David G. Gutierrez, is a broadly based and deeply researched analysis of Mexican immigration to the United States. He places such currently controversial issues as assimilation, politics and citizenship, and cultural identity in historical perspective. Of special interest is Gutierrez's discussion on the

numerous variations on what constitutes being "Mexican American," a term qualified by region, social class, discrimination, and self-identity. In paperback at \$16.95. Order from University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94720, (510) 643-5036.

More than half a century ago Carey McWilliams wrote *North from Mexico*, the first major synthesis of Mexican American history. Although in many ways it has stood the test of time, a new generation of scholars is now looking at the topic with resources not available to McWilliams. *North to Aztlan: A History of Mexican Americans in the United States*, by Richard Griswold del Castillo and Arnoldo De Leon, is one of the more recent examples offering a fresh synthesis of Mexican American history. Griswold del Castillo should be familiar to students of the history of the Southwest as the author of *The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo*, *The Los Angeles Barrio* and other books. He wrote an interesting essay on Carey McWilliams's problems in writing *North from Mexico*. As can be seen by the title of his newest effort, Griswold del Castillo and his co-author, Arnoldo De Leon, use a different approach in writing the history of Mexican Americans in the United States, dealing with the economic, political and cultural complexities of two cultures living together. I wish the book well, but its first edition (hardback and paper) had far too many typographical errors and factual gaffes. These should be culled and eliminated from any future editions, since it is very likely that the book will be used as a textbook for college-level Mexican American studies courses. The hardback edition costs \$28.95, paper, \$20. Order from Twayne Publishers/Simon & Schuster Macmillan, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019.

—Abraham Hoffman