LOS ANGELES WESTERNERS
The Branding Iron
CORRAL
LAW
J. GOODMAN

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Ames Monument, located just west of Sherman, Wyoming. Courtesy of the author.

Pyramid of the American West

by Donald Duke

I'll bet you did not know that the American West has a real pyramid? It is not as big as the giant pyramids of the Giza, Egypt, it has no secret passages inside, it does not contain the tomb of the Pharaoh of the United States, and it is not very old. It is a modern pyramid, built in the 1880's. Where is it, and why was it built? The pyramid is located at the highest point on the original Union Pacific system, at the top of Sherman Hill, way out in the middle of nowhere. It is between Cheyenne and Laramie, Wyoming. It is built of solid red granite mined from nearby cliffs. It was built to honor Oakes and Oliver Ames, a former president, financier, and directors of the Union Pacific Railroad. The Ames brothers became the center of a storm on account of the Credit Mobilíer scandal. In actuality, the Ames brothers were victims of circumstance, and not as bad as the press of the time painted them.

You ask who were the Ames brothers? Oakes and Oliver Ames were among the key players in the construction of the original Union Pacific Railroad. They were respected and successful New England manufacturers

(Continued on page 3)

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EDITOR'S CORNER

The two major articles in this issue share a number of strange things in common. The article by Donald Duke deals with a pyramid in the middle of nowhere that few people even know exists, dedicated by a grateful Union Pacific Railroad to two brothers censured by Congress.

The article by John Southworth is about the lost Gunsight mine or lost Gunsight lode depending on what source one reads, but still lost in both cases. How much has been written about alleged mines of untold riches in Death Valley that no one has ever found? Death Valley Scotty made a living out of just those kind of stories.

Speaking of making a living, a major part of both articles deals with con men. In Duke's article, the con man was Bill Murphy who Homesteaded the land on which the pyramid stood or so he thought, and attempted to blackmail the UP into buying him out.

The Southworth article is about a man by the name of W.B. Rood hired to find the lost Gunsight mine/lode and deliberately leads his party on a wild goose chase.

Are stories about honest men or women just not interesting?

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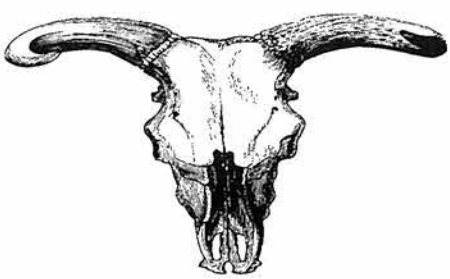


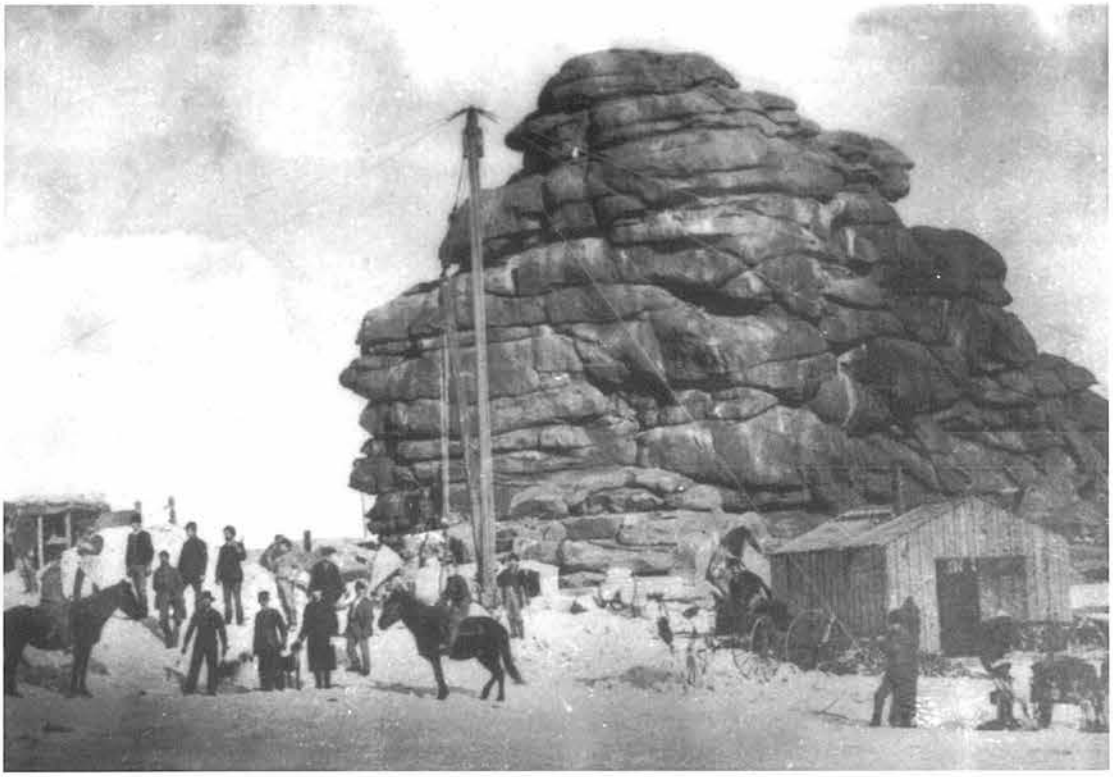
and businessmen making and selling all kinds of work equipment such as shovels, pick axes, wheel barrows, and hoes. The brothers had taken over their father's business when he died and built it into a thriving enterprise. Their first big rush of business was the sale of work equipment brought about by the California Gold Rush. Oliver Ames was elected to the Massachusetts State Senate in 1852 and 1857. Oakes Ames was elected to five terms in the United States Congress, with service from 1863 to 1873. Oakes' position in Washington directly involved the financial structure of the Union Pacific.

The struggle to authorize, build, and finance a transcontinental railroad was hotly debated in Congress. The passage of the Pacific Railway Act of 1862 was significant for the nation. There was big money to be made, and the Ames brothers became involved as suppliers of work equipment and as investors. The construction company of the Union Pacific was known as the Credit Mobilíer. The name was taken from a French banking firm also involved in the construction of the Union Pacific. It was through the Credit Mobilíer that the Ames Brothers became involved with the Union Pacific. Their original investment was $100,000 each, a figure that would grow enormously over the years. Yet even beyond money, the Union Pacific and the Credit Mobilíer needed the Ames name and reputation. From 1866-1868 Oliver Ames was the acting president of the Union Pacific. Oakes oversaw the affairs of the Credit Mobilíer. He also signed the various construction contracts. One reason the Credit Mobilíer defaulted was because of labor problems. Unruly construction workers would often get drunk and frequent the houses of ill-repute. There was also the battle with the Indians who disrupted construction. Crime was rampant because of the "Hell-on-Wheels" portable towns set up at the end of track providing booze, gambling, and prostitutes. The Credit Mobilíer fell into a sink hole. Congress and the press blamed a large part on the Ames brothers who could not control the problem, and a firestorm developed. Two separate Congressional investigations involved the Ames brothers in the swindle. By 1873, the Ames brothers were censured by Congress, although it was certainly not deserved. Oakes Ames died a broken man in May 1873. Oliver Ames resigned his position with the Union Pacific in disgrace. He returned to the Oliver Ames & Sons Company. He died on March 9, 1877, also a broken man. The Ames Pyramid was a monument to correct a wrong done to the Ames brothers on behalf of a grateful Union Pacific Railroad.

Upper Quarrying Rock for the Ames Monument. Courtesy of the Union Pacific Historical Collection.

The pyramid rests at an elevation of 8,247 feet above sea level on a wind blown barren hill. The wind blows all the time at Sherman Summit, and in winter the snow forms huge mounds blocking the tracks. Huge rotary snowplows are necessary to keep the tracks open. The pyramid stands a few hundred yards from the former main line, and close to the old townsite once called Sherman. In the early days, all passenger trains stopped at the huge pyramid during daylight hours to pay their respects to the Ames brothers.

The erection of the pyramid was authorized by the following resolution adopted by the stockholders of the Union Pacific Railroad at a board of directors meeting in Boston on March 10, 1875. The resolution read: *Resolved,* that in honor of the memory of Oakes Ames [does not mention Oliver



Ames Monument. Constructed in 1880-1881. Courtesy of the Union Pacific Historical Collection.

Ames], and in recognition of his services in the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad, to which he devoted his means and his best energies with courage, fidelity, and integrity unsurpassed in the history of railroad construction, the Directors are requested to take measures, in cooperation with such friends as may desire to contribute, for the erection, at some point on the line of the road, a suitable and permanent pyramid monument." Although the resolution only mentions Oakes Ames, the memorial ultimately included brother Oliver as well. The erection of the pyramid justly honors these two New England industrialists. Their personal reputations had been tarnished by the Credit Mobilíer scandal to the extent that the vital part they played in the building of the Union Pacific was obscured.

The pyramid was designed by the renowned American architect Henry H. Richardson, and it was erected by the engineering firm of Norcross Brothers of Worchester, Massachusetts. It was constructed from blocks of native granite, which were quarried from a natural rock outcropping about a mile to the west. The heavy blocks, some of them weighing several tons, were skidded to the pyramid by horse power. Nearly eighty-five laborers, many of them brought from Massachusetts by Norcross Brothers were employed on the project which was begun in 1880 and completed in 1882 at a cost of $65,000. The pyramid is sixty feet square at its base and rises to a height of sixty feet. Two medallions rest thirty-nine feet above the base, on the east end and on west ends of the monument each nine feet high, portraying the busts of Oakes on one side, and Oliver Ames on the other. These bas-relief medallions were chiseled from Quincy, Massachusetts, granite by the sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. On the north face of the pyramid, near the top, is the inscription in letters one foot high, "In memory of Oakes and Oliver Ames."

In 1908, due to an increase in freight tonnage and the additional locomotives needed

to get trains over the hill, the main line was moved a half-mile south on a better grade. The new main line was not within sight of oncoming passenger trains. Also the town of Sherman and the railroad depot were long gone. The cuts and fills of the old right-of-way are still visible and foundations of the depot, the water tank, and some buildings are visible today when one inspects the Ames Pyramid.

In 1916 the Board of Directors of the Union Pacific voted to move the Ames Pyramid next to the new main line. This meant taking down the monument, block by block, and moving it a half-mile south to a new location. An engineering firm estimated it would cost approximately $16,000 to make the move. This was a huge sum at the time. This was right in the middle of World War I traffic so nothing came of the proposed move. The Ames Pyramid still maintains its lonely vigil in isolation, hit by lightning at times, surveying the distant plains and mountains from its lofty throne. The deteriorating monument is hit each year with ever-lasting blowing wind and snow, and slowly it is crumbling away with time.

As a railroad enthusiast, this waiter was well aware of the Ames Pyramid. Yet, I had only seen pictures of the pyramid until I attended Colorado College, at Colorado Springs. On breaks several of my classmates and I would drive to various railroad sites to watch and photograph trains. We traveled to Sherman Hill a couple of times a year. From the summit of Sherman Hill you could look down and see Cheyenne, and the winding track. You could also see the smoke trails of some twenty freights climbing the grade. There was lots of action on Sherman Hill and one could see the "Big Boy" locomotives, the largest steam engines in the world.

On our first trip to Wyoming, we drove west out of Cheyenne along the old Lincoln Highway. We knew the Ames Pyramid was about twenty miles away when we came upon the sign pointing south. We turned off and another sign said: "Ames 3 miles." It was a good gravel road with ups and downs. Where was the monument? We came up one hill to the crest and there it was! It was a huge hunk of granite, and an amazing sight.

The story of the Ames Pyramid would be rather bland except for the story of how Bill Murphy tried to steal it. The problem would cause the Union Pacific Railroad a lot of embarrassing moments and the lawyers a lot of consternation. When the railroad built west the railroads were granted sections of land rayed out in squares. Most of the squares contained the railroad right-of-way. The route over Sherman Hill was within these squares. The railroad had the right to sell all property they did not need to farmers, ranchers, and land speculators. It so happened that no one checked where they placed the Ames Pyramid. There was nobody up on Sherman Hill, and the land was unfit to grow crops because it was so rocky. Was the Ames Pyramid on a railroad section, or on government land?

One day, at the turn of the century, Bill Murphy, jack of all trades, horse thief, and well-known character around Laramie, Wyoming, was always looking for a scam. He dropped into the Laramie County surveyor's office and asked to see the survey maps. He was interested in the Sherman township—section six. The records indicated the Union Pacific had once owned section six, which contained their original main line. Murphy wondered if the Ames Pyramid was on government land or railroad land. Was the Ames monument free for the taking? Apparently the old main line was on the northern boarder of the section.

Murphy's suspicions were now confirmed. It seemed the Ames Pyramid was on government land. Murphy, therefore, placed a homestead claim on the section. He never told anyone what he had done. He built a shack on the land and claimed to be the rightful homesteader. The Homestead Law required that he develop the property and live on it for five years. The property was already developed with the Ames Pyramid, so all he had to do was sit on it for five years. No one could stand the wind and snow, and who would check to see if Murphy actually lived on the property? After five years Murphy was granted his claim and then a

Ames Monument. Courtesy of the Union Pacific Historical Society.

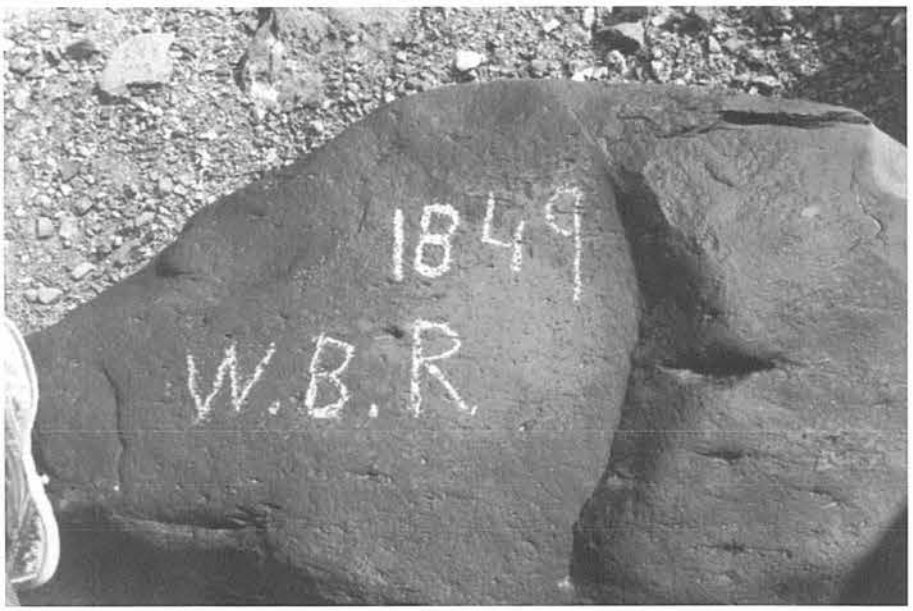
controversy ensued.

Murphy figured he would blackmail the Union Pacific and they would come running to buy him off. He contacted several big advertisers of patent medicines, the Mail Pouch tobacco firm who placed huge signs on barns, houses, and other structures. Murphy offered wall space on the pyramid and he received several inquiries from various firms. When companies inspected the site, they lost interest because nobody could see the advertisements, except the cows or sheep grazing on the hill! So, Murphy began soliciting ads in Laramie and Cheyenne newspapers offering advertising space. This was the first public indication that Murphy was up to something.

Suddenly, the Union Pacific's "Vatican of Transportation" in Omaha was a buzz with activity. Lawyers began pouring over records and deeds, and they found that some clerk in their land office had turned back property to the government. Was the Ames Pyramid on government land or railroad land? There was no one to blame, as most of the employees involved were dead. The only thing the railroad could do was to repurchase the land from Murphy. If Murphy said no, the sale price would go up. Advertising on the Ames Pyramid would certainly be an embarrassment to the railroad and their history. Bill Nye, editor of the Laramie *Tribune* could not believe the Union Pacific could be so stupid! Nye was going to Washington in a couple of weeks and offered to check land grant records for himself. He found that Sherman Hill was half on the Laramie County survey and half was on the Cheyenne survey. The Ames Pyramid was a little over on the Cheyenne survey and was on government land. Murphy's claim for homestead was on the Laramie section. So he did not own the pyramid. It was still on government land.

Nye stopped in Omaha on his way back and informed the Union Pacific lawyers they should file immediately on the Cheyenne section. To protect themselves and keep Murphy unaware of their plans, they again offered to buy Murphy's land. The railroad also told Murphy that a lawsuit would be costly to him. At first the Union Pacific offered him $100,000 to sign off on his section. When the Union Pacific had filed their claim, Murphy finally settled for $15,000, which was still a large sum for the time. Murphy had a brilliant scheme to take advantage of the Union Pacific, but by not having all sections surveyed he had let a fortune slip through his fingers. Today, the Ames Pyramid is just off Interstate 80. There is a small sign at a turn-off leading to the Ames Pyramid. Ask anyone in Cheyenne or Laramie about the Ames Pyramid and they just give you a blank look. It is not mentioned in any travel literature or tourist guide. There is a state sign telling about the Ames monument and the settlement called Sherman.

The poor Ames brothers, who had so much do to with taking the Union Pacific on its transcontinental trek, are a forgotten footnote to a memorable past.



Possibly William Rood's initials. Historians speculate that Rood was probably waiting for another forward scout to return and he had time to leave this graffito. Courtesy of the author.

The 1869 Return of William Rood To Death Valley—A Reconsideration

by John Southworth

In 1919 the Historical Society of Southern California (Annual Publications, Volume Eleven, Part Two, pages 56 through 64) published an account of a trip to Death Valley in 1869 by three prospectors guided by a fourth, one W.B. Rood who, as a member of the Jayhawker Party, had been there twenty years earlier in 1849. The purpose of the trip was "to look for the Gun-sight mine, so much talked of", not to mention the cache of minted gold coins reported abandoned in the same district.

This published account, written by George Miller who was one of the participants, begins with several paragraphs of historical summary, all from long time memory, mostly explaining that their 1869 guide spoke from experience having "been there in 1849-1850 but then making the early and confusing statement" at the place now known as Summit Camp, or Emigrant Pass. . . "This connection is not possible. One name is old, the other more recent. Together, they identify locations miles apart. Perhaps this party was the very first to apply the name Emigrant Pass to its present location at the head of Emigrant Wash, a place not visited by any of the 1849-1850 emigrant groups.

Later, still explaining background history for Summit Camp, Miller states: "While we were there, we made good search . . . [for the gold coins] . . but there had been a cloudburst . . . charcoal from the camp-fires were there, and the bones of their dead cattle were there." Charcoal and bones are possible but not historic bones or coins in a non-historic place.

Finally, launching into an excellent description of a weeks and miles-long prospecting trip extending as far north as Scotty's Castle, Miller states "We went . . . up Panamint Valley . . . up Wild Rose Canyon, to the summit between Death Valley and

Panamint Valley. Then we turned East on the summit and North of Telescope Peak." No question about it. The 1869 party came to present Emigrant Pass, searched a while (in the wrong place) for buried gold coins, then turned east to search for the Lost Gunsight Lode.

The prospecting party was made up of four men, George Miller, Paul Van Curen and Eugene Lander, with William B. Rood as guide. In his 1919 article, Miller consistently refers to the guide Rood as Mr. Rhodes. He is easily forgiven this error since his Mr. Rhodes habitually spelled his name in many ways. In Death Valley the name W.B. Roods is chipped into a desert-varnished rock a mile or so from the mouth of Lemoigne Canyon. L.D. Stephens, in his "Life Sketches of a Jayhawker of '49", mentions his "messmate Bill Rude." The Raphael Pumpelly map of the extreme southern part of California and Arizona in 1869 geographically located the two Arizona ranches developed by Bill Rood. One is labeled Rodes Ranch, the other Rhodes Ranch. Toward the end, before his premature death in 1870, Rood usually signed his correspondence W.B. Rood or Wm. B. Rood. Perhaps by then he pronounced his name "Road or "Roads". Today no one knows for sure.

Rood was deeply qualified in 1869 to guide and search for the Lost Gunsight Lode as it has come to be called. He was at Summit Camp on Pinto Peak on January 1, 1850, when the original native silver, eventually shaped to replace a missing gunsight, was brought into camp by late arrivals. He had held the silver sample in his hand. He had also watched while minted gold coins, several dozens of them, had been buried and abandoned as far too heavy for further transport an expert or the subject of Death Valley trails. He was well qualified to guide in any search for the Lost Gunsight Lode. Looking back, he was too well qualified.

With three mules loaded with food and supplies, the well outfitted prospecting party left the San Bernardino area of southern California on April 12, 1869. It traveled north through Cajon Pass, north to Searles Lake via Granite Spring (now Granite Well), across the Slate Range and north up Panamint Valley as far as Wild Rose Canyon.

Nineteen years earlier, in 1850, William Rood and all his fellow Jayhawkers had descended into Panamint Valley from much farther north. Apparently, by 1869, he had absorbed some new Death Valley experiences unknown to history. In any event, he turned his 1869 prospecting party away from his 1850 trail, traveling east, away from Panamint Valley and into the branching Wild Rose Canyon.

The party traveled up Wild Rose Canyon and White Sage Flat to present Emigrant Pass, which their guide called Summit Camp and Miller described as being on the summit between Death Valley and Panamint Valley, They searched diligently for the buried gold without success. Bill Rood claimed that cloudbursts had altered all his markers.

From Emigrant Pass, and for no apparent good reason, the prospecting party turned east, down the east-facing scarp of the Panamint Range, descending 5000 vertical feet to the floor of Death Valley where they turned north, picking up the old 1849 Emigrant Trail at Furnace Creek.

That old trail, still visible after twenty years, led them northward to a place now called Jayhawker Well, the place where so many wagons were abandoned and burned late in 1849, a place near where thousands of tiny seeps gather to form the undrinkable Salt Creek, as dismal a place as ever existed.

From Jayhawker Well the prospecting party eventually turned west and returned toward Emigrant Pass, this time approaching it from the north through Emigrant Wash, stopping for some time at two springs they called Grapevine Spring and Dove Spring, now known as Emigrant Spring and Upper Emigrant Spring, springs not visited by any of the 1849-1850 emigrant parties. How did Bill Rood know of their existence and go unerringly to them?

With time and food to spare but still no evidence of Gunsight silver, the party returned to Jayhawker Well, then turned

north an estimated forty miles where they spent time with native groups at Mesquite Spring and still farther north at the springs near present Scotty's Castle.

Too far afield, the party returned south, then went west up Marble Canyon to Goldbelt Spring, there visiting more native families and passing but not mentioning the present site of a very dubious 1849 chipping. Following Indian trails south, they crossed Hunter Mountain and came into the upper end of Panamint Valley from which point it was a direct thirty miles south to the mouth of Wild Rose Canyon, already visited (The earlier trek up Wild Rose Canyon to Emigrant Pass was repeated, then extended northward to the now familiar Emigrant Springs where the party encountered other searchers for the Lost Gunsight lode before disbanding.)

The 1869 trip to Death Valley as reported by George Miller in 1919 provided a rare and interesting experience for the participants and a new look into how the native population lived. However, it provided little of interest to later historians. No mines were found, let alone the the fabled Lost Gunsight Lode. But the 1919 report is most interesting for what it does not say, what the author could not report because he did not know, all because his trusted guide William B. Rood was apparently promoting his own private, unsuspected agenda. At the very least, William B. Rood was disengenious with his paying customers.

Bill Rood, overqualified guide on the 1869 prospecting trip in search of the fabled Lost Gunsight Lode, having been there just twenty years previously perhaps knew full well that Summit Camp, the cached minted gold and the scene of the Gunsight silver revelation was very near, just one canyon west of the visited Emigrant Spring. However, in 1869, he made absolutely no attempt to take his paying customers over his 1849-1850 trail through the Panamint Range via Summit Camp. Instead, he searched far afield. It can be fairly assumed that Bill Rood had earlier searched the real Summit Camp (perhaps more than once,

Rood Rock near the mouth of Lemoigne Canyon. Courtesy of the author.

perhaps he had already retrieved the cached gold) and saw no great need to return. Instead, he took an opportunity to expand his already extensive, obviously unsuccessful search for the still missing Gunsight Lode. Because of this apparent perfidy, today we have almost lost an opportunity to have documented and unquestioned proof of the exact geographical location of what the original 1849-1850 wanderers through Death Valley named Summit Camp.

So George Koenig was probably right. In his "Death Valley Tailings" published in 1986, Koenig questioned how men who had to hurry just to survive could find time to leave graffiti on desert rocks. He suggested that the two Rood Rocks, both dated 1849, were chipped by Bill Rood on a later visit (or visits) but back-dated in a spirit of "I was here first."

One Rood Rock, initialed W.B.R., can be visited today at Jayhawker Spring, one canyon west of Emigrant Spring. The other, which spells out the whole name Roods, is found four miles north, not too far from old Jean LeMoigne's early mine which was remarkable for its massive native silver, the very sort which started the search for the Lost Gunsight Lode in the first place.

Photograph courtesy of Robert Clark.

John Gilchriese
1923-2004

John D. Gilchriese, early member of the Los Angeles Corral, passed away on May 18, 2004 in his home in Tucson, Arizona, just twelve days short of his 81st birthday. He was preceded in death by his wife, June, who passed away in December, 2003. He was being treated for oral cancer, and was scheduled for his final radiation treatment the day of his death.

John joined the Corral in the early 1950s, and on March 18, 1954, presented his first paper on the subject of Wyatt Earp. He remained an active participant in the Corral activities until his move to Arizona in 1962 to accept a position as field historian at the University of Arizona, a post he held for a decade. One of the acquisitions he arranged there was the purchase of the extensive book collection of Loring Campbell, another long-time member of the Corral.

John had extremely fond memories of the Corral and its early members. He remained close friends with Art Woodward, curator of history at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, especially after Woodward's retirement to Patagonia south of Tucson. His recollections of Rendezvous meetings at the Placeritas Ranch, of Dr. Fred Hodge, Carl Dentzel, Pidge Berry, John Goodman, and other early members were both memorable and entertaining. He missed those days.

John's first fascination with the West was sparked when, as a child living on Mt. Washington, he was given a copy of Stuart Lake's biography of Wyatt Earp. That fascination became indefatigable detective work, and over the course of several decades he gathered one of the country's outstanding collections of primary material dealing with Tombstone and the Earp family. He became an intimate of numerous people who were close to the Earps, and they shared with him their memories and their memorabilia. Foremost among these was John Flood, personal secretary to both Earp and his third wife, Josephine.

But Gilchriese's interests ranged far beyond Earp and the street fight in Tucson. He was a voracious reader with an encyclopedic grasp of people, places, dates, and the interconnections which helped guide events throughout the West. The California Gold Rush fascinated him, and he combed arcane primary sources, city and county directories, business records, and other sources to understand the interrelationships between men and events.

Beneath his occasional bluster and impatience with those who sought to impress, John was a devoted husband and father, and a generous and caring friend. His contribution to our knowledge of the West will only become more evident in time through the dissemination of his collection, and its use in re-examining many of the events it touched.

Vaya con dios.

—Robert Clark

In Memoriam: Martin Ridge

The Los Angeles Corral lost an invaluable and dedicated member with the passing of Martin Ridge on September 22, 2003. He died after a year's heroic struggle against a crushing burden of medical problems and progressive physical deterioration. His was a valiant effort until death claimed him at Greater El Monte Community Hospital. His ashes were interred in the family plot at Pilgrim Home Cemetery, Holland, Michigan.

Martin's parents, John and Anna Lew Ridge, were Russian immigrants. No doubt in being processed at Ellis Island, the family name was hastily anglocized by some unknown federal immigration agent. His parents settled in Chicago where Martin was born May 7, 1923. A younger brother followed. He was educated in the local public school and on graduation from Francis Parker High School on the Near North Side, he entered Chicago Teacher's College (now Chicago State University), graduating in 1943 at the age of twenty. He enlisted in the U.S. Merchant Marine, including a tour of duty in the Pacific. Upon his discharge from service and the enactment of the G.I. Bill, he entered graduate studies in history at Northwestern University. There he met Marcella VerHoef, a graduate student in political science and a native of Indiana; they were married in 1948. Martin completed his M.A. the following year and became a doctoral student of Ray Allen Billington at Northwestern University, with parallel study in the history of immigration under Franklin D. Scott. His two mentors became his lifelong friends. He proved a highly able and talented candidate and received his Ph.D. in 1951. His dissertation, *Ignatius Donnelley: Portrait of a Politican,* was published by the University of Chicago Press in 1962, and reprinted by the Minnesota Historical Society, 1991.

Martin began his teaching career as an historian at Westminister College in Pensylvania in 1951. In his last year there I had the good fortune to meet him at a Mississippi Valley Historical Association (later renamed the Organization of American Historians) meeting in Chicago. Both of us, as it turned out, were candidates for an assistant professorship at San Diego State University (I later withdrew since I had not completed my dissertation.) Thus in 1955 Martin relocated to southern California, taking the job at SDSU. In the ensuing ten years, we became traveling buddies and good friends. Twice a year we headed east for the annual meetings of the American Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians, later adding a third meeting, the Western History Association to our list. We always traveled by train—which was cheaper than air. As both of us became more affluent, we graduated from chair car to romettes, then a shared bedroom. What gala times we had en route. to and fro—as well as sharing the hotel room at the meetings.

In 1966 Martin was invited to join the Department of History at Indiana University as editor of the Organization of American Historians' quarterly *Journal of American History,* which was housed at IU. I used to joke with him that he would never had gotten the job had he not been appointed associate editor of the *Southern California Quarterly,* the publication of the Historical Society of Southern California, in 1963. (I had been appointed editor in 1962). In 1964 he served as Acting Editor in my absence on a Guggenheim Fellowship which included study/research in the British Museum (Library) and Public Record Office, London. Martin served with distinction as editor of the JAH until 1977 when he retired. On retirement, he was appointed Director of Research (to 1993) and later Senior Research Fellow at the Huntington Library, succeeding his mentor Billington in the latter post, and several years later (1980) he had a dual appointment as professor of history at Cal Tech (to 1995).

Martin accumulated a host of fellowships, awards, and honors during his profesional career far too extensive to list here, but suffice it to note they included the presiden-

cy of the Western History Association and the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association. His fellowships included the Baker Library, Newberry Library, and Guggenheim to mention only three.

Like his awards, honors, and fellowships, Martin served on innumerable Boards of Editors, book series; prize committees—including four Pulitzer Prize Juries (3 of these as chairman), not to mention endless professional activities and involvements. Nor can one neglect the large number of books he edited, complemented by those he authored or co-authored as well as a host of professional, scholarly essays and articles. He was truly a progidious historian. He was vigorously active until his pall of illness cast its' long and awesome shadow over the last fourteen months of his life.

Corral members will recall his regular attendance our meetings. He only missed a meeting if he was out of town either on holiday or for professional matters. And at most meetings he could be counted on for a pointed question or two or some sagacious comment germane to the program content.

With his death I lost a friend of forty-eight years standing. I can testify to his deep sense of integrity; his total candor; his sharp intellect; his devotion as a husband, father, and grandfather; his absolute commitment to democratic ideals; his dedication to civil rights and progressive causes. He was a shining example of the true American Dream—a self-made man of intellect, commitment, steadfastness, courage, bravery, and loyalty. He was truly, one of a kind.

—Doyce B. Nunis, Jr.

"THE BRANDING IRON !"

The " Code Of The West"—may it always stand
"These are mine just take a look at that brand
Don't even think of takin' one of them rovin' cattle
Why I've even got that Rockin' T burned into my saddle"

Yep, the cowboy's branding iron was a mighty hefty tool
Any one who ignored a brand would have to be a fool
When that iron was hot and applied to a bawling longhorn
Them critters might have wished they'd never been born

But it really paid to respect that brand out in the old West
And those longhorns were tough enough to meet the test
The ranchers, cattlemen, they "communicated" through those brands
"These cattle are mine—everyone knows that and understands "

Now the Westerners "communicate" with members near and far
And The Los Angeles Corral keeps their members up to par
They send out "The Branding Iron " to every active buckaroo
A little different then back then-but we're "communicating" too !

—Loren Wendt

Corral Chips

Happy birthday to **DOYCE NUNIS!** **MONSIGNOR FRANCIS WEBER** honored Doyce on his 80th birthday at the San Fernando Mission in early June. Two former graduate students and corral members spoke about Doyce at the gathering. **GLORIA LOTHROP** richly detailed the many teaching accomplishments, publications, and contributions to the academic community that have so characterized Doyce's career over the past several decades. Former sheriff **TOM ANDREWS** spoke to the personal warmth and generosity of Doyce's character, as a friend and mentor, who has been a guiding spirit in his own career as a college teacher and president of the Historical Society of Southern California. Of course, it goes without saying that Doyce Nunis has been a guiding spirit in the Los Angeles Corral. The corral salutes Doyce and wishes him many wonderful and productive years to come.

Corral members **JOHN ROBINSON, FROY TISCAREÑO, CHUCK VERNON,** and **DON GREEN** were part of a ten member group that hiked fifty miles through the heart of the Sierra San Pedro Martir, Baja California's highest mountain range. They were accompanied by three Mexican vaqueros and a nine-horse pack train. Expert angler Don Green snared twenty trout from the headwaters of Arroyo San Antonio, providing the gang with a fishfeast the last night in the wilderness. "This was a great trip," John remarked, "but my back and feet are still sore. What a hike!"

On another aspect of Baja California, corral member **PAUL GRAY** has been researching the life of Francisco P. Ramirez at Tijuana and the surrounding area. Ramirez was an influential editor in Los Angeles during the 1850s and 1860s. His newspaper, *El Clamor Publico,* was an important force in shaping Mexican political opinion during the years leading to the Civil War. Later, Francisco P. Ramirez moved to Baja California, where he resided for the remaining two decades of his life. Paul has worked four years on a Ramirez biography, and a large part of his research has been conducted at the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California. Paul has nearly 75% of his forthcoming book completed and hopes to secure a publisher in the not-to-distant future. The Los Angeles Corral eagerly looks forward to his completed study.

Congratulations goes to former sheriff **MIKE GALLUCCI**. Mike is a staunch "boilermaker" fan and alumni supporter dating back over five decades. Purdue University expressed the school's gratitude for Mike's loyalty by marking the fifty-fifth anniversary of his graduation with an honorary certificate. You can bet that if Purdue ever makes it back to the Rose Bowl, Mike will be rooting the loudest at the fifty yard line.

Directory Changes

New Members

Margaret Dickerson
1822 Paloma Street
Pasadena, CA 91104

Sam Hale
351 W. California Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91105

Joshua D. Seibert
28079 Croco Place
Canyon Country, CA 91387-4241

Ardis Willwerth
470 W. Walnut Street
Pasadena, CA 91103-3594

Address Changes

Bill Escherich
391 Taylor Drive
Pasadena, CA 91711

Robert Stragnell
16 Montview Drive
Hanover, NH 03755

Steve Tice
3245 Rida Street
Pasadena, CA 91107

THE MONTHLY ROUNDUP

MARCH MEETING

The Los Angeles Corral had two very special individuals speak at the March dinner meeting. John Gray and Duane King provided an overview of the recent merger of the Autry and Southwest museums. Since 1999, John Gray has served as executive director of the Autry Museum of Western Heritage. Dr. King is a graduate of the University of Georgia and is the executive director of the Southwest Museum. Together, these men will provide the leadership and inspiration for the newly formed Autry National Center.

The theme of their presentation was the convergence of cultures and museums. They emphasized the merger of these institutions would broaden the scope of future exhibits

Photograph by Froy Tiscareño.

March Meeting Speakers John Gray and Duane King.

and programs. The fusion of these two museums represented a cumulative collection of nearly 20,000 pieces of baskets, pottery, and Spanish-colonial artifacts. Plans for expansion includes a new exhibit center at Griffith Park in order to meet the needs of elementary and middle school students for field trips and special presentations.

In addition, the Autry National Center has an ambitious plan to explore research opportunities of the peoples and cultures of the the American West. That is, to provide an innovative view of looking at Native American peoples through the lives of those living their history in today's world. Smithsonian scholars and local academics will provide valuable oversight of future projects, which include an exploration of the American ideal of the cowboy, women in the West, and Hollywood's contribution to the popular conception of the frontier.

The Autry National Center is currently organizing an ambitious development campaign to endow the collection for acquisitions and building projects. In a sense, the West is "still to be won," and John Gray and Duane King are at the vanguard of that exciting effort to further our appreciation and understanding of the peoples and cultures of the American West.

Photograph by Froy Tiscareño.

April Meeting Speakers John Robinson and Willis Osborne.

APRIL MEETING

Corral members John Robinson and Willis Osborne treated the Los Angeles Corral to a wonderful look back in time at the San Antonio Canyon and Curry's Camp Baldy. San Antonio Canyon has been a critical source of electrical and water power, not to mention a recreation center with historic resorts and campgrounds. In the Depression era, Camp Baldy was considered the "Yosemite of the South," a summer resort area that featured a hotel, swimming pool, and mountain trails leading to the top country of Mount San Antonio. John and Willis provided a two-part look at the San Antonio Canyon.

John discussed the early history of San Antonio Canyon. He traced the Juan Bautista Anza route through Tongva (Gabrielino) mountain territory. The Spanish padres probably used timber from Ice house Canyon for work at the San Gabriel Mission. The southern California newspapers of the 19th century identified a wagon road built by F.P.F. Temple, an early pioneer merchant and banker who married into the William Workman family. Temple needed lumber for his ranch property and possibly built a saw mill prior to 1870 when he became consumed with other financial endeavors. At the turn-of-the century, Santa Antonio Canyon was part of the Great Hiking Age, a time when tent camps and mining communities dotted the mountain landscape. John discussed many of the important camps and commercial ventures of that era. He took corral members back to a time that included Kelly's Camp, Stoddard's Camp, Dell's Camp, hydraulic mining in the early 1890s, Camp Baldy, and Bear Flat Trail.

Willis Osborne offered an anecdotal and personal view of Curry's Camp. As a young lad, Willis recalled summer trips to this mountain resort, and he shared slides of the tent camp, cabins, golf course, and bowling alley that were part of the experience. Curry's Camp was the most glamorous vacation spot in the San Gabriels. The owners often greeted customers personally and sent them home with a jovial farewell. Mirror Lake and Sunset Peak were scenic spots within hiking distance from the camp. The rich and famous often visited Curry's Camp, including John Barrymore and silent screen star, Ed Burns, who later married Ruth Curry and ran the resort in the Depression era. The memorable 1938 flood destroyed a large portion of Camp Curry, not to mention several other resorts and communities in the San Gabriels. The camp was rebuilt on a smaller scale, without a pool or casino and continued into the post-World War II era. Today, Buckhorn Lodge represents the last vestiges of a time gone by.

John and Willis complemented their presentation with rare photographs from the era so that corral members could visualize a time and place when mountain vistas, swimming, and stories around the campfire were part of a unique summer experience. Anyone for a morning hike?

MAY MEETING

The spectacular achievement of traversing the continent by the Lewis and Clark Expedition has often overshadowed other important explorations of the early nineteenth century. Scott R. Glenn, sheriff of the Santa Barbara Corral of Westerners, provided the Los Angeles Corral members with a deeper understanding of the Zebulon Pike Expedition of the same period. In 1805,

Photograph by Froy Tiscareño.

May Meeting Speaker Scott Glenn.

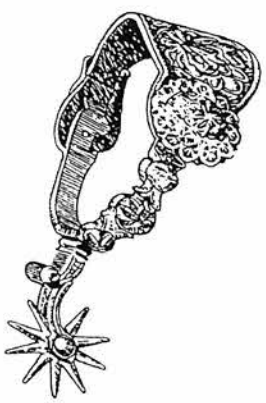
Zebulon Pike was commissioned by General James Wilkinson to conduct a reconnaissance of the upper Mississippi River. During Pike's first expedition, he purchased over 155,000 acres of Indian land and had a brief confrontation with a British trader in the upper Mississippi region. Scott R. Glenn presentation centered on the second Pike expedition, an 1806-1807 adventure which, as he termed, was a study in "how the West was really won."

The 1806-1807 Pike Expedition was ordered by General Wilkinson without the apparent knowledge of President Thomas Jefferson, which raises suspicions about intrigue surrounding the mission. On the face of it, Pike's exploration was part of a scientific investigation into the source of the Red River, as well as to mediate Indian disputes in the region. Yet some scholars believe that Pike was involved in a secret mission to observe and detect any Spanish military movements and fortifications near the Rio Grande River. Relations between the United States and Spain were strained due to land disputes on the frontier. What's more, the Napoleonic wars led to confiscation of American vessels by Britain and France, and Spain would also be the unhappy recipient of anti-European sentiment in the United States.

Certainly Pike spent a great deal of time identifying the source of the Platte and Arkansas River, reaching the Cheyenne Peak, and discovering the Kansas sand dunes, which helped retard Midwest migration for several years. But Lieutenant Pike also scouted the areas surrounding Santa Fe. His men were intercepted by Spanish troops and later detained by Nemesio Salcedo, commandant-general of the Internal Provinces of New Spain. After a brief interrogation of Pike and his men at Chihuahua, the group was allowed to travel back into United States territory.

What makes Pike's actions all the more suspect is that General Wilkinson had been implicated in the schemes of Aaron Burr to develop a separate country in the West. Whether Pike was duplicitous in such a plot by spying on the Spanish, or was merely an unsuspecting player used by Wilkinson to gain information on the Spanish, are still issues that historians debate. Nevertheless, given the era of undefined boundaries, emerging expansionist sentiments, and the intrigues of the Napoleonic era, the Pike Expedition may very well have been part of a larger focus on Spanish objectives in Mexico and the Southwest.

Scott Glenn provided interesting maps to highlight the Pike movements during the 1806-1807 expedition. If anything, Glenn's presentation posed more questions than answers concerning Pike's motives and involvement with Burr's aborted scheme, which made for an enjoyable and thought-provoking evening at Almansor Court.



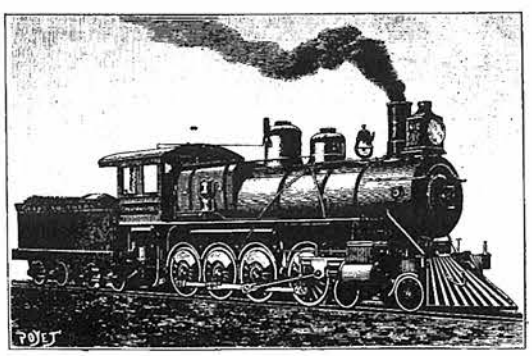
Fandango 2004

And now, for something completely different —a Fandango in Santa Barbara.

At the invitation by the Santa Barbara Corral to join them for a Bar-B-Que dinner at the Carriage Museum in their city, a representative contingent of Los Angeles Corral members traveled to Santa Barbara on June 12th for the festivities. The majority of Corral participants rode the Amtrak Surfliner from Union Station and Glendale, while other members chose to drive.

Members of the Santa Barbara Corral were very hospitable and made their guests very welcome, indeed. The festivities included a tour of historical buildings of the city, a viewing of the displays of carriages and other riding paraphernalia at the Museum, refreshments, and a delicious Bar-B-Que beef dinner with all the trimmings. During the meal, Sheriff Gary Turner presented to Scott Glenn, sheriff of the Santa Barbara Corral, a plaque commemorating the event and a copy of the Los Angeles Corral's just-published Brand Book 22. Dinner was followed by a slide presentation by Neal Graffy of the Santa Barbara Corral, entitled "Why Santa Barbara?" extolling the city's virtues with slight tongue-in-cheek.

In all, it was a lovely day and everyone present had a wonderful time. The Los Angeles Corral extends its appreciation to the Santa Barbara Corral, and especially to Sheriff Gary Turner and Deputy Sheriff Paul Rippens for their excellent work in making the necessary arrangements to assure corral members of having a terrific time.



Photograph by Froy Tiscareño.

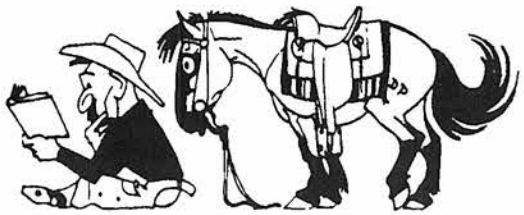
Welcome to Santa Barbara.

Photograph by Froy Tiscareño.

Better saddle up before the train leaves the station!

Photograph by Froy Tiscareño.

The usual suspects!



DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL . . .

TAMING THE ELEPHANT: *Politics, Government, and Law in Pioneer California,* edited by John F. Burns and Richard J. Orsi. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003. 28 pp. Illustrations, Notes, Index. Cloth, $65; paper, $29.95. Order from University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94709 (800) 822-6657, www.ucpress.edu.

This book is the fourth and final volume in the California Historical Society's California History Sesquicentennial Series, published simultaneously as special editions of *California History* and in book form by the University of California Press. Previous volumes include *Contested Eden: California Before the Gold Rush, A Golden State: Mining and Economic Development in Gold Rush California,* and *Rooted in Barbarous Soil: People, Culture, and Community in Gold Rush California.* As noted in the subtitle of this volume, the final topic deals with politics, government, and law, mainly in the period between statehood and adoption of a new state constitution in 1879. Taken together, the volumes offer a worthy contribution to the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of California statehood. Ironically, this last book appears at a time of intense political crisis and a questioning of whether the Golden State has traded its luster for tarnished fool's gold.

Like its predecessors, the book consists of essays based largely on published studies, with end notes supplying a rich bibliographical resource. Numerous photographs and illustrations enhance the work, including fifteen color plates. The contributors have written authoritative essays providing state-of-the-art examinations of California history. The essays criticize but do not condemn, and evaluate but do not congratulate. They are meant to be read and utilized by students of California history and, hopefully, anyone who wishes to learn of the tumultuous beginnings of California under American rule. John F. Burns, co-editor of this volume (Richard J. Orsi shared this task, as he did with the co-editors of the three preceding volumes), leads off with a survey of the creation of government and law in California. He assesses the views of earlier and more recent historians on the accomplishments and failures of the state's pioneer lawmakers. Although politicians in the new state have been criticized for their prejudices, narrow views, and personal ambitions, Burns finds they were relatively successful in establishing constitutional and legislative precedents for state government. Considering the complexities and political circumstances, they did the best they could, and what they did became an enduring legacy.

Roger McGrath examines the culture of violence that pervaded California in its first forty years of statehood. Drawing on his research into violence in the mining town of Bodie, he observes that the Gold Rush brought thousands of young men into a frontier environment offering vice, crime, and inadequate law enforcement. Men fought duels as a point of personal honor, yet they respected women, and violence far exceeded burglary and theft. Gordon Bakken traces the development of California's legal system after statehood. In 1850 the new state lacked judicial precedents, prisons, competent lawyers, and a coherent system of laws. Although laws were passed discriminating against minorities, the courts set precedents on such issues as women's contractual rights, real estate and mortgages, and tort law, helping to establish a foundation of legal procedures.

Those racist laws are given critical examination by Shirley Ann Wilson Moore who finds that courts and laws effectively prevented people of color from testifying in

court, having their children attend public schools, and other discriminatory actions. Though federal law rendered legalized inequities largely unconstitutional after the Civil War, discriminatory practices in California persisted well into the 20th century. Judson A. Grenier surveys California state government offices and agencies established in the first thirty years of statehood. The new state's government set up a stable structure that served California until a new constitutional convention was held in 1879. The state established its archives, library, board of education, and other agencies. Interestingly, only one governor served two terms during this period, and most severed less than a full term.

The efforts of women in California to obtain equal rights between 1850 and 1890 receive attention from Donna C. Scheule. She states that although the 1849 State Constitution included protection of women's property rights based on Spanish-Mexican law, the legislature restricted women's control of their own property. The restrictions led to a campaign to equalize property rights, end occupational discrimination, and gain woman suffrage. California women won the right to vote in 1911, nine years before passage of the 19th Amendment. Edward Leo Lyman traces the establishment of local government in California after statehood, examining the transition from Mexican to Anglo-American rule. Innovation and adaptation characterized local governments as they attempted to meet the challenges of creating new institutions and continuing established ones.

In the final essay, Robert J. Chandler traces the creation of federal government agencies in California from the Mexican War to 1880. The huge population influx during the Gold Rush brought demands for federal improvements in transportation and communication. Chandler finds the work of the federal government remarkably successful as everything from the mint, lighthouses, arsenals, and customs houses, to policies on Indian reservations, mining laws, and public lands had to be created almost overnight. In addition to the essays, the color plates with accompanying text by Joshua Paddison provide a pictorial description of the economic, social, and political changes in California during the early years of statehood. Paintings, drawings, and photographs show construction of the state capitol building, the continuing military presence, and various "efforts to 'tame' the frontier state."

Together with its companion volumes, this book provides an important distillation of the finest efforts in California historiography. Fifty scholars in four volumes have shared their research in excellent essays that help us appreciate the controversies and challenges facing the makers of a new state. The contributors tell a remarkable story, warts and all. I suggest readers read one essay an evening; excluding weekends, it will take two months to read them all, and it will be time well spent.

—Abraham Hoffman

ADVENTURING ALONG THE LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL By Elizabeth Grossman San Francisco - Sierra Club Books, 2003. 296 pages, 5-3/8" x 8-3/8", 9 maps, 13 b/w photographs. Notes, Bibliography and Recommended Reading, Index. $16.95. Distributed by the University of California Press, www.ucpress.edu.

With the bicentennial of the historic Lewis and Clark journey fast approaching, another book has arrived on the market following the wondrous feat of the Corps of Discovery. However, this book is not about the adventures during 1804-1806, but more of the opportunities available to those who desire to follow the Lewis and Clark Trail today.

The author has used a tremendous amount of research to tell what Lewis and Clark saw during their adventure and what can be seen today. So much of the landscape has been changed by development, the construction of dams that have flooded areas of historical importance, and the large amount of private lands that restrict those who wish

to follow, as much as possible, this historic route. The book features state-by state profiles of wilderness areas, parks, and biological preserves along the trail as well as original Lewis and Clark camp sites, Native American sites, and other historic places of interest. It also includes tips on the best hikes, walks, backpack and bike trips, and canoe and kayak adventures. Excerpts from Lewis and Clark's journals help travelers recognize and experience the landscape from the Corps of Discovery's perspective.

The author has taken the time to include addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of parks, the Forest Service Districts, and other agencies that you will need to contact if you plan to make this trip. She also includes information on the flora and fauna of the regions that will be traveled through as well as a "Animal Species Status List," and information on "Conservation Groups, Campaigns, and Tribal Organizations."

This well written and almost mistake free book is a must for those interested in the Lewis and Clark expedition and for those who feel the need to follow the trail. The only draw back to the publication is the numerous comments regarding the changing landscape obviously from a Sierra Club point of view. Although I applaud the efforts of the Sierra Club, these comments started to grow old by the middle of the book.

—Paul H. Rippens

CALL OF THE FAR AWAY HILLS, Robert Wagoner, CD, $15 PP, Order from Robert Wagoner, P.O. Box 213, Bishop, CA 93515, (760) 873-6286.

This is an excellent CD in the tradition of the singing cowboys of the silver screen. It includes a pair of songs by Bob Nolan and one by Tim Spencer, both Sons of the Pioneers alums. Two compositions were written by the great Stan Jones who wrote many songs for John Ford movies as well as the widely known "Ghosts Riders in the Sky". A wonderful rendition of the traditional "Good Bye Old Paint " is also included. The title cut "The Call of the Far Away Hills" is the theme song for the classic Western movie "Shane."

Bob recorded this CD at his High Desert Recording Studio in Bishop, Ca. All vocal are performed by Bob as well as all the instrumentals with the exception of one cut. On that song guest artists play steel guitar and violin. Bob does an exceptional job of harmonizing with himself by over-dubbing vocals. He has a magnificent range and the timbre of his voice is extraordinary. One must listen to this recording more than once to truly appreciate the remarkable rich quality of his voice. His selection of songs is strong and his interpretation of those selections is outstanding.

Bob Wagoner is also an accomplished painter of Western art and one of his superb Western scenes adorns the cover of this CD. Some Corral members will remember Bob from past Rendezvous that he participated in at Dr. Miller's home. Others may have seen him at Death Valley 49'ers Days where he used to show his art as well as perform his music. More recently he has appeared at the Lone Pine Film Festival with his singing partner Tammy Kilpatrick. He also performs in a swing band every second Sunday of the month at the Whiskey Creek Restaurant in Bishop.

Bob doesn't plan on pressing any more discs after the original supply sells out. Of his previous recordings only one is still available on CD. Several are still available on cassette but this newest recording was not issued on cassette. For any fan of the singing cowboys this CD is a must have item.

—Tim Heflin