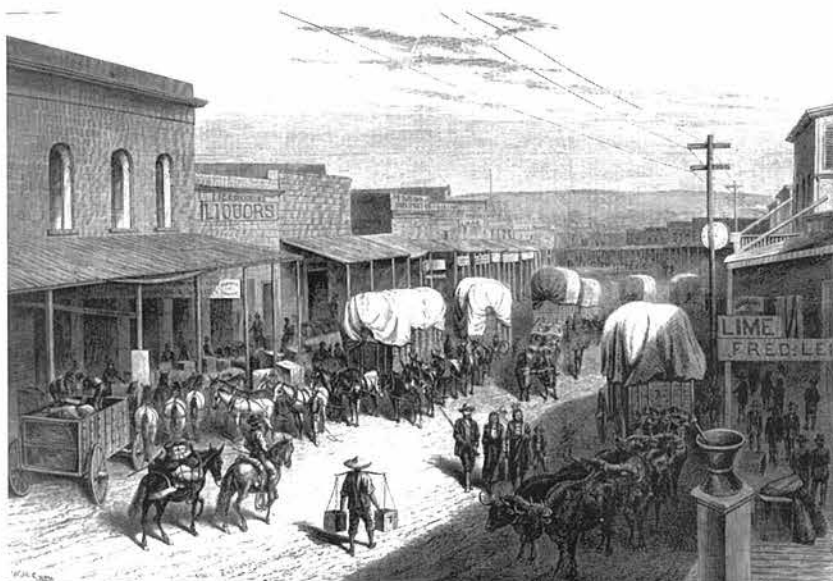




FALL 2005

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Main Street, Helena, Montana, from Harper's Weekly, Feb. 2, 1878. Drawn by W.M. Cary. Montana Historical Society, Reference File, Helena, Montana.

Coal: Fueling the Industrial Revolution

by Gordon Morris Bakken

Coal mining in the American West has been a forgotten frontier as A. Dudley Gardner and Verla R. Flores stated and it involved necessary fraud as Nancy Taniquichi so eloquently entitled it. Yet coal mining law and practice resonated with the precious metals industry, while prospectors were equally ardent in their pursuit of mineral wealth. Small miners made a living and large corporations stepped in with capital to industrialize the process of extracting energy from the earth. Mining practices befouled the waters

and fish suffocated on the coal slack. Farmers complained of blackened irrigation waters and ranchers pondered gaping holes in the earth. Historians may have forgotten western coal, but the railroads coursed near coal supply and electrical utilities awaited the unit trains that delivered their energy.

Railroad development in the West generated a search for coal, but simple heating requirements drew prospectors to coal. The first commercial mine in Colorado shipped

(Continued on page 3)

THE BRANDING IRON

The Westerners Los Angeles Corral

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The Branding Iron solicits articles of 2,500 words or less, dealing with every phase of the Old West. Contributions from members and friends welcomed. Copyright © 2003 by the Westerners Los Angeles Corral Publication Design & Layout by Katherine Tolford

EDITOR'S CORNER

Gordon Bakken's article: "Coal: Fueling the Industrial Revolution," is an excellent example of greed, arrogance and a colossal lack of concern for the welfare of the public by the coal industry and by the politicians they controlled. We particularly liked the quote of Dr Schoenthal in Montana, "he would probably drop dead if Montana Power did anything on strip mining control unless it was propelled by strict law." This same point could be used to describe the attitudes of the railroad industry, the steel industry, the chemical industry, the timber industry, and all the other big business entities that have done their level best to destroy the quality of life for the American people in the name of bigger profits. Gordon should do a series of articles on big business except it would start to be repetitious.

Starting in the 1970's laws have been passed to control the excesses of big business and those of us who felt that it was long overdue now felt that the battle had been won. Not so! As we write this, the Department of the Interior is proposing revisions of National Park policy which would weaken protection of natural resources and wildlife while allowing an increase in commercial activity including mining and grazing. Like Dracula, they never die!

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coal by ox-wagon to Denver blacksmiths at fifteen dollars a ton. Wyoming coal found its way to blacksmith fires in the 1840s and 1850s before James Evans's 1865 survey for the Union Pacific Railroad line noted coal in use at Fort Halleck. The Rock Springs, Wyoming Number 1 coal mine started in 1868 to produce for the railroad. This coal camp dumped its sewage into Bitter Creek along with coal refuse. At Sheridan, Wyoming the Dietz coal camps and mines, numbers one through seven, flushed into the Little and Big Goose creeks. The building of a Holly Sugar Company plant contributed to the problem.

The Holly Sugar Company...each fall during their campaign, their pulp waste was discarded in Little Goose Creek turning the water into very murky gray completely polluting the creek as well as Bib Goose Creek into which it flowed shortly down stream. From that point both creeks became so polluted as to kill all the fish down stream for many miles, preventing any further swimming and creating a stench which persisted until the end of the campaign and for some time afterwards. Even the raw sewage of the city of Sheridan was far less damaging as we were able to swim without any apparent ill effect, nor did it seem to seriously effect the fish population.

Coal camps, like the gold and silver rush camps, had sewage disposal problems that contributed to disease and death of fish and mucker alike.

Although the problems of the coal camps and the placer camps resonated in smell and ailments, the mining law was different. Cornelius B. Nolan explained it to John Brady of Baker, Montana in 1895. "The land must be entered by legal subdivision, and may be taken up by individuals or associations," Nolan wrote. The people must be U.S. citizens or must have declared their intention to be citizens. An individual could take up 160 acres or less and an association could take up 320 acres. Nolan wrote that if four or more expended \$5000 or more in working or improving coal mines, they could claim 640 acres. The price was \$10 per acre if the land

was more than fifteen miles from a railroad and \$20 if closer. Further, "by railroad is meant where one is actually constructed on the face of the earth." There was another issue. "If this ground were on surveyed land within sixty days after taking possession an application should be made for entry to the land office and the money paid," Nolan warned. For unsurveyed land, "there is no necessity to make the application, as indeed, the land office could not entertain it." In this case, Nolan asserted that "the only thing to be done at the present time is to take possession of the land." To be clear, "the mining laws have no application, so that no recording of a location notice is necessary." Simply, "the only requirement is that you have possession, and then when the survey is made and sixty days after filing of the township map the application must be filed in the land office." Regardless, "it is necessary that the coal mine should be opened and improved; that is to say, the labor and improvements must be such as to clearly indicate the good faith of the claimant." Nolan believed a prudent coal miner would "mark the extent of the claim upon the ground, and post notices at the boundary lines, so that there would be something on the ground to show that it was taken up." Finally, "it would be desirable to put up a copy of that notice at the place where the mining would be carried on." These concepts of pre-emption, boundary marking, and notice of intent to mine were familiar cultural and legal markers of private property claims on the public domain.

Also familiar were the filing of claims, the working of claims, and selling out to a capitalized organization. William David Junkin remembered of 1884 Montana that "rumors of a coal deposit were abroad at this time and several claims were laid out about two miles from the ranch. Each day, weather permitting, Abner McGiffin and Charles Culbertson walked to their coal claims and eventually these were sold for a fair sum." Junkin believed that as a result of company development, the camp of Stockett developed and "the coal fields of San Coulee played a big part in the settling of this part of" Cascade County.

Coal also drew miners to the Belt Mountain range and in 1886, Trail Creek was the most active coal camp in Montana. With demand for coal came efforts to control supply. W. Fernie of Victoria, British Columbia explained the situation to Henry Burrell in San Coulee, Montana in 1891.

In the event of our not being able to get a railroad [spur to join the Great Northern Railroad] we intend to secure all the coal and oil lands and then wait for developments. We may be compelled to do this if the big corporations combine to prevent our Railroad from being built but we shall be masters of the situation for we shall have a monopoly of the coal which these corporations want badly and we can afford to wait our time which will surely come in the near future.

Burrell would see this dynamic played out as manager or superintendent of the San Coulee Coal Company, the Clark Fork Coal Mining Company in Gebo, Montana and the Carbon Coal Company in Carbon, Montana during 1896-1903.

The combination of railroad and smelter demand for coal and industrial expansion was good for business. R.J. Johannes and Company reported in 1920 that

Never before in the history of the field has there been such an unprecedented run of orders as early in the season, and they are exhausting all the means in their power to get this coal in transit.

The Northern Pacific Railroad had mines in Roslyn, Washington and tapped Montana coalfields for their long hauls. William Anthony Romek remembered that the Yellowstone Park Railroad was part of the coal-smelter matrix. "Copper and gold ore would be hauled to Belfry, where the smelter would handle the ore with coal transported to Belfry from Bearcreek," Montana he recollected. By 1906, rails were laid to Bearcreek and to the Smith Mine of the Montana Coal and Iron Company, the Bearcreek Coal Company, and the International and Smokeless and Sootless Coal mines. The period 1920-23 was a busy time-coal demand had not decreased very much though the War had been over for near-

ly two years. Romek thought "this was partially due to the fact that North Dakota lignite mines had not been developed to any extent, and threshing machines by the hundred were driven by hand fired coal, a market that started in late July and lasted through harvest." As a result, Bearcreek was booming with seven mines operating and employing over a thousand miners. The boom continued into the 1930s and Romek recalled "making very good earnings and personally [was] not affected by the depression." In 1931 he toured California on vacation. He remembered the "years from June 1, 1929 had been carefree, pleasant years." In 1934 the Northern Pacific contract gave the miners more work and Romek noted that 1937 was "a good year for our Company and our employees." He had so much work that he was unable to take a vacation until September 1940 when he visited Long Beach, California. After World War II, the coal industry had stiff competition from electricity and natural gas so Romek went to work for Western Nuclear in 1955. Romek's experience was not unique, yet others saw the other side of coal mining prosperity.

The consumer, not the railroad or smelter consumers with fixed price contracts, saw the prosperity of the coal companies differently. A 1920 editorial of the *Helena Independent Record* entitled "Gouging Coal Consumers:"

What bothers and mystifies the public, and also makes it mad, is why in all the investigations of the coal question, and the adjustment of wages, something isn't done to loosen the deadly grip of the coal operators.

The consumer not only believes, but he had been assured frequently by various investigators and by experts who are in a position to know that the operators have always taken greater profits than they should.

Whether or not the miners should have more wages is entirely aside from this important question.

The Montana Board of Railroad Commissioners recommended summer rate reductions. There was a "consumers buying strike on" in the summer of 1921 and coal

operators saw the problems in freight rates, jobber commissions, and wages. The decreased consumer demand put some coal companies into financial difficulty. R.J. Jonannes of Helena wrote to S.G. Carpenter in Red Lodge in 1923 that "we thought the Pioneer Coal Company was the only concern that are financially embarrassed, but according to your letter you are in the same FIX? Well Misery likes company, we are pleased to know that we are not alone." Part of the problem was that coal companies carried consumers rather than requiring cash purchases. The result was files filled with letters to debtors and the rise of debt collections firms. The debt collection stories were not unusual. I.R. Eidell, the president of the Helena Adjustment Company wrote to the Eagle Coal Company of Red Lodge in 1924 that their debtor "was so profuse in his promises that he would make us regular payments. As long as he did not keep his word we brought suit and try and smoke him out." The Montana-Wyoming Association of Credit Men told the Eagle Coal Company in 1924 that "our attorneys in Beach [North Dakota] say the account is not collectible, and give us the following information: Mr. Doering has been out of business for the past two years and recently lost his gasoline station job making the instrument of debt worthless." Importantly, the concerns of coal operators and consumers seldom touches on environmental issues.

That changed in the 1970s. Earth Day and new voices entered the public discourse. The *Billings Gazette* ran a story in January 1970 that exhibited the changed focus. At a Young Republican meeting in town Dr. Norman Schoenthal, Chairman of the Billings-Laurel-Yellowstone County Air Pollution Control Board assailed Montana Power and said he would probably drop dead if Montana Power did anything on strip mining control unless it was propelled by strict law. But Montana acted and Republicans in Washington, D.C. thwarted regulation. Even that was changing. J. Melvin Williams of Laurel, Montana wrote to Lee Metcalf in March 1977 praising an editorial in the February 12, 1977 edition of the

Sacramento Bee. Williams thought that the *Sacramento Bee* was "the first major newspaper in the Nation to take note of the fact that twice-vetoed strip mining legislation is now on its way through Congress with great expectation that it will be signed by President Carter." Further, the editorial pointed out that Montana had a tough strip mining law "but the federal government has lagged behind and failed to produce similar, long needed legislation." The paper concluded that "coal production in the West is not going ahead with the speed it should because of industry confusion and widely varying state standards." The danger was that "federal lands are unprotected. And in some places where there is mining, unscrupulous ravaging of the land is reported." Later, even the federal government in Washington would produce strip-mining regulation. Times were certainly changing.

Suggested Readings

A. Dudley Gardner and Verla R. Flores, *Forgotten Frontier: A History of Wyoming Coal Mining* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1989).

Nancy J. Taniguchi, *Necessary Fraud: Progressive Reform and Utah Coal* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996).

Morris F. Taylor, *Trinidad, Colorado Territory* (Pueblo: O'Brien Printing & Stationery Co., 1966).

Robert B. Rhode, *Booms and Busts on Bitter Creek: A History of Rock Springs, Wyoming* (Boulder: Pruett Publishing Co., 1987).

Stanley A. Kuzara, *Black Diamonds of Sheridan* (Sheridan: Pioneer Printing & Stationery, 1977).

Duane A. Smith and Ronald C. Brown, *No One Ailing Except A Physician: Medicine in the Mining West, 1848-1919* (Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2001).

Many corral members are associated with educational institutions, either as teachers, students, administrators, librarians, or as research scholars. The following article was written by co-editor, Tom Tefft, and concerns the state of education today. Since history endures because of our ability to let the next generation know what has come before, then this article has particular relevance to our discipline. The article is reprinted courtesy of the *Palm Desert Sun*.

Schools in California Can, and Should Get Better

The purpose of any educational institution is to teach students. Therefore the two most important groups of people in any school system are the students and the teachers. All other personnel are there to support the students and the teachers in order to facilitate instruction.

I have spent more than 40 years in public education at the secondary level and community college level as a teacher and a department chair. I have watched the sad decline in quality public education in California from being the best in the nation in the 1960s to close to the bottom in quality in the first decade of the 21st century.

Public education in California is a mess and needs a major overhaul, not cosmetic changes. I have listed 10 ideas, based on my own personal experience as a teacher and manager, that I know will improve public education in this state.

Eliminate local school boards. In far too many cases school board members intimidate teachers and administrators and undermine their independence and ability to educate students. In many cases, teachers who attempt to discipline a student for disruptive behavior find that the affected student simply tells his or her parents, who in turn call a school board member who then complains to the principal who then tells the teacher not to discipline that student or by implication any student. Once the teacher's ability to control a class is undermined then very little if any instruction will take place.

Keep taxes locally raised local rather than sending them to Sacramento.

Allow teachers to transfer outside their districts for higher pay just as school administrators do today. At the present time, a teacher who transfers from one school district to another must go back to the bottom of the salary scale. Obviously, this discourages competition between districts to get the best possible teachers for their district in order to improve their educational program.

Conduct annual teacher and management evaluations. Every teacher and school administrator would be evaluated by a combination of teacher and management teams as well as by student evaluations. The evaluation team would then sit down with the teacher and discuss strengths and weaknesses and how to improve.

Return order to the classrooms. Make teachers, with firm support from management, responsible for classroom discipline. If most teachers knew they would be supported in classroom discipline, in my opinion they would do it.

Hire retired teachers as mentors to teach classroom management. In most communities there are many retired teachers who would jump at the chance to mentor new or beginning teachers.

Remove the income cap for retired teachers who return to education. At the present time the income cap is approximately \$27,000 per year. This means that any monies earned over that are returned to the state. Ironically, many retired school administrators are hired back as consultants without being affected by a similar cap.

Management salaries should not exceed 10 percent more than the highest-paid teacher in the district. At present, in many school districts, some school administrators make more than twice as much as the highest paid teacher in the district.

Cut the number of support personal (classified and management) by 30 percent in each district. Some positions could be eliminated altogether.

Increase school funding by at least 10 percent. With the savings mentioned above this could easily be accomplished.



Photograph by Froy Tiscareño.

March Meeting Speaker Robert Pierre

MARCH MEETING

Corral member Robert Pierre, M.D., gave a clinical overview of the impact of disease on settlement in the Americas. Using a compelling slide presentation, Dr. Pierre began his discussion with a look at the 1941 Felton-Smithsonian Report on the nearly dozen diseases that affected the indigenous populations of the Americas. Robert then focused his presentation on four of those devastating diseases: yellow fever, cholera, smallpox and measles. Smallpox was brought to the Americas through early Spanish colonization. In 1517, the first epidemic occurred in Hispaniola. Historians theorize that the slave trade accelerated the spread of smallpox within Central America, along with the later outbreak of yellow fever in 1596. In fact, nearly ninety epidemics impacted Central and South America over the next three centuries. Ironically, Dr. Pierre intimated that the United States indirectly benefited from the unwanted affects of yellow fever. The French army was decimated by the disease during the slave revolt at Haiti in 1801. As a result of the French desire to increase their war chest, an inability to secure a North American empire, along with the chilling affects of the slave revolt and the smallpox epidemic, Napoleon was discouraged from maintaining and defending territory in

North America. As a consequence, the United States eventually purchased from France the Louisiana Territory for roughly three cents an acre! Dr. Pierre explained that cholera leads to dehydration and rapid heart failure if not treated immediately. During the 1830s, European immigrants brought the debilitating disease to the United States, which devastated many eastern cities. During the Gold Rush, an estimated 5,000-10,000 argonauts perished along the western trails and at the California gold fields. Although the wonders of modern medicine have reduced cholera to a rarity in North America, the disease is still of pandemic proportions in underdeveloped areas of South American and Africa. "Measles is a virus," Dr. Pierre explained. The disease had a nearly 100% mortality rate among Native Americans and Hawaiians. These populations had no natural immunization and were immediately infected when transmitted by Europeans and Americans. Perhaps one of the most tragic instances occurred in the nineteenth century missionary settlements at Wala Wala, Washington. The disease was partly to blame for the Cayuse Indians massacre of several Presbyterian missionaries, including Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and the Sager family children. The Cayuse were agitated with the steady encroachment of new settlers on their lands and the increased presence of American military forces in the region. Thus, an outbreak of measles within the tribe created the added spark needed to ignite Indian hostilities. Dr. Pierre presented several graphic photos of men, women and children who suffered the physical affects of these diseases. The enduring tragedy is that some of these diseases still persist, and remains a sober reminder of the help still needed in Africa and South America today.

APRIL MEETING

The April dinner was a special treat for the Corral. Glen Dawson, the last surviving charter member of the Los Angeles Corral of



April Meeting Speaker Glen Dawson

Photograph by Froy Tiscareño.

Westerners, offered his reflections on rock climbing during the heyday of the Great Hiking Age in the 1920s and 1930s. Over 100 enthusiastic members attended the presentation and were certainly rewarded with a rich collection of travels, memorable climbs, and Glen's acquaintance with well-known environmentalists, sportsmen, and outdoor enthusiasts. Although Glen is known for many accomplishments, it is not widely understood that he is an expert on rock climbing, cross country skiing and several remote mountain trails and peaks. In the 1930s, he was a contributor to Will Thrall's *Trails Magazine*, a quarterly journal devoted to outdoor activities. Glen provided rare photographs of several adventures, including an early train trip to Coachella Valley and a hiking trip to Mount Charleston in southern Utah. During the mid-1920s, Glen was a participant in an ambitious hike through Yellowstone National Park and sojourns into the high country of the Sierras. One particular adventure led his party to the summit block of the "Hermit," an imposing peak at Mount Humphrey. The slide presentation also included photographs of Cathedral Peak at Yosemite, the Ichorn Pinnacle, and Mount Darwin. Hikes included such memorable destinations as Hetch Hetchy, Cottonwood Springs, Twenty-Nine Palms, and Idylwild. Glen displayed a rare photograph of Ansel Adams at Tuolame

Meadows. His childhood friend, Don Percival, and his brother, Muir Dawson, were also highlighted during the presentation. Glen even shared an early photo of Westerners Homer Bolter, Arthur Clark, and Paul Gallagher. During the 1930s, Glen made several ambitious hikes, including a rugged trek through the east buttress route of Mount Whitney. After Glen graduated from U.C.L.A. in the mid-1930s, he traveled around the world and visited the Alpine regions of Europe, several peaks in Wales and England, and across the Soviet Union and onto China to purchase art and artifacts for the Dawson Book Store. During World War II, Glen was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division and trained in the Colorado high country and later in the mountains of West Virginia. During the war years, Glen experienced glacier climbing in the pristine Alpine country of Austria. Glen Dawson's presentation was a look back at a time when America was invigorated with a sense of wonderment, to discover first-hand the world's natural beauty, and to experience nature as the heaven's had created it to be enjoined. Indeed, Glen Dawson's presentation was a glimpse into a rich life of outdoor accomplishments that all members appreciated from a truly "pioneering" founder of the Los Angeles Corral.

MAY MEETING

William J. Ehrheart provided an overview of the Corriganville Ranch, the site of the June 2005 Fandango. Located in the rolling hills of Simi Valley, Ray "Crash" Corrigan purchased the ranch in 1937. The romance of the locale includes a history of Chumash Indians that lived in the area, and later became part of a Spanish land grant in the late-eighteenth century. The folklore includes wild tales of bandit hideouts, thievery, and stagecoach hold-ups along the roads over the Santa Susana Pass. The notorious outlaws, Joaquin Murietta, Juan Flores, and Tiburcio Vasquez may have traveled these roads during the heyday of the bandido in southern California.



Photograph by Froy Tiscareño.

May Meeting Speaker William J. Ehrheart

Ehrheart offered a brief history of the Corriganville ranch, which acted as a movie lot for several "B" Westerns, including films of the famous "singing cowboy," Gene Autry. In addition, the ranch provided the backdrop for episodes of the television series, "Rin Tin Tin," and for scenes from the classic John Ford movie, "Fort Apache." The presentation certainly prepared dinner guests for a wonderful upcoming Fandango, along with a deeper understanding of this important locale to Simi Valley's history.



Corral Chips

Last April, **JOHN ROBINSON** and **WILLIS OSBORN** presented their "San Antonio Canyon and the Saga of Curry's Camp Baldy" program at the Buckhorn Lodge. John covered the rich history of the canyon. Willis told the sentimental tale of Curry's Camp Baldy, including a focus on the center-

piece of the camp —Buckhorn Lodge.

The corral has missed **STEVE BORN** for the past several Westerners dinners, but there is a good reason for his absence. Steve has been traveling the last three years to faraway lands and learning a great deal about various cultures. He twice visited Guatemala to see the native Mayan villages, collecting traditional masks and weavings. He also spent a week on the Navaho reservation collecting unique rugs and artifacts. In addition, Steve made four trips to Mexico to gain a rich appreciation for the indigenous peoples.

ABE HOFFMAN has a new entry in an anthology edited by James A. Crutchfield, "The Way West: True Stories of the American Frontier." Abe's subject involved the California gold messengers in the months following Marshall's discovery at Sutter's Mill. A few of the curriers who brought news of gold discoveries to the East were Edward Fitzgerald Beale, David Carter, and Lucien Loeser. Abe describes the circuitous routes and unique difficulties these men confronted in their mission to bring news of the gold fields to the Polk administration.

ART COBERY contributed a March article for the *Crescenta Valley Sun*. He paid tribute to Paul McCarton, considered the Valley's "Model Boy Scout," who was a victim of a accidental shooting during a camping trip in the Eastern Sierra in 1928. A Twelve Foot Deodara Tree was dedicated in McCarton's honor at the city park. The tree and bench have long since vanished due to the ravages of time. Last spring, a plaque was rededicated in the memory of McCarton by the Historical Society of Crescecenta Valley and the Boy Scouts of America. Cobery's article highlights McCarton's dedication to community, hard work as an Eagle Scout, and role model as an excellent student. "Let's honor the name and memory of Paul McCarton," Art wrote that "it really is the right thing to do."

A special salute goes to **LOREN WENDT**. Loren's poem, "An Eventful Night In Tombstone" (*Branding Iron*, Fall 2004) was recognized by the Westerners International. In October, Loren was given an award at a

prestigious ceremony held in Scottsdale, Arizona.

On a sad note, it is with deep regret to note the passing of Corral member, **TAD LONERGAN** (1933-2005). Tad Lonergan died in a single car accident on a back road leading to Big Bear this past July 4. For the past several years Tad had been active in Desert Hot Springs activities and working to bring a medical center to the area. As a physician, he practiced medicine and helped many of the aged and infirmed through tough times. As the local paper noted, "he was a man loved by everyone who knew

him; a definite leader in the community. Some would say he was the glue that held the community together." All corral members are proud to have considered Dr. Tad Lonergan as part of the family of Los Angeles Westerners as well.

WILLIS OSBORNE is finishing work on a guide book to Mount Baldy and San Antonio Canyon. The book will cover hiking trails, camps, topography, historic locations, and commercial points of interest. The guide book is scheduled for publication in late 2005.

West Of The Big Muddy !

Well, stranger, there's a tale I just have to tell

I lived it —so I know it too durned well
We camped West of the Big Muddy that
awesome night

N' it peared that everything was gonna be
all right

Most of the boys had gone to town
And them restless longhorns had finally
settled down
Some silver clouds were scuddin' crost the
moonlit sky
The kinda night you wouldn't feel bad even
if you'd try

Reno and I had drawn night-herdin' duty
But we didn't mind cuz the night was sure
a beauty
Cooky was crankin' out a lonesome cowboy
song
N' the two of us cowhands wuz hummin'
right along

Then, off in the distance we heard a coyote
howl
Sparky, the camp dog, started in to growl
That's when we heard that clap of thunder
And that's when we all begun to wonder

It wuz 'bout that time that the lightning hit

Hit poor Cooky's wagon and made a mess
of it

Old Sparky did a kinda' somersault or two
N' Cooky joined in for quite a few

Then Sparky took off a-runnin' mighty,
mighty fast
And Reno and I couldn't believe it when he
passed Cooky ? Well, he managed to climb
a handy old oak tree
Now, you're probably wonderin' what hap-
pened to Reno and me

Well, we parted company when we heard
them cattle bawl
Cuz we knew they'd soon be runnin' one
and all
Sure enough here come that mighty, rushin'
crew
And we weren't interested in knowin' what
they'd do

Now, stranger, guess you know that
roundin' up those strays
Took us weary cowboys a dog-goned heap
of days
Yep, it happened over there, right where the
river bends
We were camped West of the Big Muddy,
that's where this story ends.

—Loren Wendt



Courtesy of Larry Boerio

The Santa Susana Railroad Depot and Museum.

Fandango 2005

Corriganville Park furnished the backdrop for this year's gala event, which attracted nearly eighty corral members and guests. Ray "Crash" Corrigan, a stunt man and actor who best known for his film role as Tucson Smith in several "B" western movies, purchased the Simi Valley property in 1936. Corrigan's ranch became the backdrop for several movies, including the *Streets of Laredo* and *How The West Was Won*. In 1949, the property was opened to the public as a Western-style amusement park. In the next decade, the Loner Ranger production company leased the movie ranch for filming the popular television series.

Corral members had the opportunity to visit the Santa Susana Railroad Museum located near the park. Docents provided a tour and interesting information regarding the restored depot. The Southern Pacific Railroad built the depot in 1903 at a time when southern California's agribusiness was in "full bloom." The depot became an important connection for farmers sending major shipments of produce across the state and country. Over the next sixty years, the railroad depot also served as a nexus for Simi Valley travelers to reach local and regional destinations. Now a restored museum,

the structure originally stood at the intersection of Los Angeles Avenue and Tapo Street in Simi Valley.

The Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society has worked to restore the depot and provide several interesting attractions for visitors. Corral members were treated to film clips of "B" westerns that used Corriganville Movie Ranch as a setting. In addition, the museum contains an HO model railroad layout with an impressive 500 feet of track. The miniature trains operate through recreated countrysides and townships to scale, which represent the rural terrain of an earlier period in southern California.

Corral members were treated to a scrumptious barbecue meal, book auction, and raffle in the afternoon. **KEN PAULEY** and **MICHAEL PATRIS** are credited with making several arrangements for the food and locale. **ERIC NELSON** did his best to auction a number of scholarly books. **PAUL RIPPENS** also worked behind the scenes to make Fandango 2005 a success. Of course, **GARY TURNER** made sure that none of the corral members went thirsty under the bright afternoon skies. Many thanks go to all of the corral members who helped make for a memorable event.



Courtesy of Art Cobery

Docents provided an historical perspective on the significance of Corriganville and the Southern Pacific Railroad to the Simi Valley.



Courtesy of Art Cobery

Paul Showalter dressed in appropriate garb for the day's events.



Courtesy of Art Cobery

Bill Paschong displays a winning raffle prize.



Courtesy of Ken Pauley

"The Gang of Four" enjoying a festive day at the Fandango.



Courtesy of Art Cobery

Gary Turner did his best to make the raffle a success.



Courtesy of Art Cobery

Two bandidos! A smiling Larry Boerio and Bob "Choo Choo" Kern on the way to the railroad museum.



Courtesy of Art Cobery

A relaxed Jerry Selmer enjoying the afternoon at the picnic grounds.



Courtesy of Art Ken Pauley.

Westerners surrounding a docent during a tour of the grounds leading to the Santa Susana Railroad Museum.

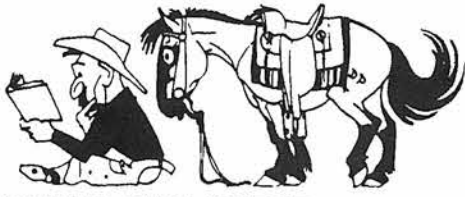


Courtesy of Larry Boerio.



Courtesy of Ken Pauley

A docent displays typical equipment found in the Santa Susana railroad depot.



DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL ...

CALIFORNIO VOICES: *The Oral Memoirs of Jose Maria Amador and Lorenzo Asisara*, (Number 3 in the *Al Filo: Mexican American Studies Series*) Translated and Edited by Gregorio Mora-Torres. University of North Texas Press, Denton, TX, 2005. 262 pp. Glossary, bibliography, index. Cloth \$29.95 The editor's 25-pp. introduction is in English, but the remainder of the text gives Spanish then the English translation on the facing page.)

Part of a larger project directed by Hubert H. Bancroft, but considered to be merely background material for what became his seven-volume *History of California*, this book, *Californio Voices*, arrives nearly 120 years later. It gives us the transcribed first-person impressions of two men—Hispanic Jose Amador and Native-American Lorenzo Asisara. Amador (1794-1883) was the son of a soldier of 1769's Sacred Expedition to Alta California. Asisara's father was among the indian founders of Mission Santa Cruz in 1791. (Asisara was born in 1819, his death year was not mentioned) Amador was born at the Presidio of San Francisco, Asisara at the pueblo of Santa Cruz. Both were interviewed at Santa Cruz in 1877.

Bancroft, who the editor calls "a self-centered cultural entrepreneur (who) believed that profit could be made by the writing of California's history," was inclined to celebrate Manifest Destiny in his works, while the more than sixty Californios interviewed by his researchers hoped to preserve the "truth" about events in pre-1848 Alta California. Of course, truth is in the eye of the beholder.

From 1822, when Alta California belatedly learned that Mexico had secured its independence from Spain, until 1848, when it became a

U.S. possession, the territory was a neglected stepchild of a young, poor nation. The near-total eradication of one culture by another and the political intrigues and power plays of the chaotic 1830s and 1840s are vividly recounted. During the 1830s, Alta California had twelve Mexican governors—six spent less than six months in their post and one, Pio Pico, was governor for just three weeks in 1832. Amador claimed to be non-political, but he had plenty of juicy details. Both memoirists expressed opinions on the virtues and vices of governors, military commanders and priests whose tenure they remembered.

The events recounted by Amador begin about 1809 when he became a soldier and those of the younger Asisara begin later. The 1810s and 1820s were a time of frequent forays by Hispanics against rebellious natives. Detachments of Spanish (later Mexican) soldiers and mission Indians would pursue "renegades" into the San Joaquin Valley and beyond.

Forty years after the fact, Amador told an interviewer, without any apparent regret, of the execution of 200 indian prisoners on an armed campaign in 1837. It was in retaliation for the theft of one hundred horses from Amador's Rancho San Ramon by a band of Indians. He tells of the climactic moment this way: "I told (the lieutenant) I was in favor of executing the prisoners but that they would have to become Christians first—We baptized all of the Indians, and then they were executed from behind." Some, including a member of the prominent Vallejo family, later criticized this action, of course it was too late for the 200. They had been rounded up along the Stanislaus River in the Sierra Nevada foothills, over seventy five miles from the scene of the crime. It is interesting to note that Amador later criticized incidents of brutality by the American invaders claiming "they violated divine and human laws and they trampled the principles of civilization."

The narrative from the native American, Asisara, contains some eye-popping testimony on the treatment of Indians by colonials, including not only the military, but the clergy as well. Father Moreno "treated the Indians with great warmth," and Father Taboada, who "was easily infatuated and... would embrace and kiss the

indian women...and have relations with them." On the other hand, there was Father Olbes, "a firm believer in giving cruel lashings. He was never satisfied with prescribing fewer than fifty, sometimes on the buttocks, and quite frequently on the belly. This, he enjoyed very much....Even children between the ages of eight to ten, he would order that they receive twenty-five lashes at the hands of a strong man, on the buttocks or the belly, according to his fancy of the moment."

It seems the Californios were like everyone else—some good, some mixed, some downright twisted.

—Steven Tice



DEATH VALLEY '49ER TRAILS: *Pieces of the Puzzle Come Together*, by B. G. Olesen. Santa Ana: Photophysics, 2004. Hardcover, 184 pp., photos, maps, selective bibliography \$50.

Death Valley has excited more interest, more fascination, and been the subject of more books than any other part of California's vast desert country. To a large degree, this enduring fascination is the result of a book published in 1894 and reprinted many times since. William Manly's "Death Valley in '49" has been called a literary classic by none other than Lawrence Clark Powell, California's late, great bibliophile. And well it should. William Lewis Manly's vivid account of the trek he and John Rogers made from the floor of Death Valley across mountain and desert wastes to Los Angeles and return is richly detailed and gracefully written—one of the great adventure stories of the California Gold Rush.

Since the 1930s, Death Valley historians have attempted to retrace Manly and Rogers' route. Although Manly's book is "a descriptive gold mine," there are segments of the trek that are open to various interpretation. Dr. John Wolff, Carl Wheat, E. I. Edwards, Burr Belden, Leroy Hafen, George Koenig, and LeRoy and Jean Johnson have all tried their skills at retracing the epic journey. When the Johnsons published their "Escape from Death Valley" in 1987, this was

thought by some to be the definitive account, the final word of the subject.

Not so. Taking nothing away from the Johnsons' outstanding effort, we now have Bob Olesen's richly detailed analysis of the 49er routes out of Death Valley. Olesen is a retired aerospace engineer who has spent much of the past twenty-five years studying Death Valley and the gold-seeking emigrants who passed through it. He puts his considerable talents to work in retracing not only the Manly-Rogers route, but the paths taken by the Jayhawkers, the Reverend Brier, the Wades, the Earharts, and the final escape of the Bennett-Arcan party. On numerous excursions, often accompanied by fellow Death Valley historian John Southworth, Olesen has painstakingly covered all conceivable variations of 49er routes out of Death Valley. As Southworth writes in the Foreword, "We have stood on many a desert height and argued the relative advantages and disadvantages of distant trail alignments. We have walked and driven miles of those trails searching for landmarks and eliminating potential but impractical routes of the '49ers." What makes Olesen's detailed route and site investigations unique is his use of tools unavailable to previous Death Valley historians, such as the Global Positioning System (G.P.S.) and digitalized topographic maps.

Olesen begins with a cursory account of the hundred-plus wagons that followed Captain Jefferson Hunt south on the Salt Lake-Los Angeles Trail. "Gold Fever" took hold of the emigrants in southern Utah, causing most of the wagons to turn west on a supposed shortcut to the California gold mines. Upon reaching the deep canyon now known as Beaver Dam Wash, most turned back. Twenty-seven wagons continued west across the barren Nevada desert. Most of the west-bound gold-seekers eventually burned their wagons and crossed Death Valley on foot. Lagging behind the others, the Bennett-Arcan party, which included Manly and Rogers, opted to continue with their wagons and descended Furnace Creek Wash into Death Valley. Seeing their way west

blocked by the high wall of the Panamints, they turned south along the valley's eastern side until the wagons could go no farther, then crossed to the westside, directly under the imposing mountain rampart.

Olesen gives a detailed analysis of the probable sites of Manly's Flowing Spring, which flows only after heavy snowfall in the mountains, and the Long Camp, so named because the Bennett-Arcan party camped here many days while Manly and Rogers went for help. The Johnsons place Long Camp at today's Bennett Well, but Olesen makes a good case that the campsite was a mile farther south.

The heart of Olesen's book is a carefully reasoned, detailed analysis of Manly and Rogers' most likely route south from Little Sulphur Well, southwest through Warm Spring Canyon and Butte Valley, over Manly Peak and down the ridge west into Panamint Valley, around the south end of the valley to avoid the mud flats of Little Salt Creek, west over the Slate Range via Manly Pass, and down into Searles Valley near present-day Trona. Olesen bases his conclusions on Manly's two accounts—his 1894 book and 1888 newspaper articles, the known Jayhawker and Reverend Briar routes, and most importantly, thorough knowledge of the terrain. The author, often accompanied by Southworth, drove or walked almost the entire distance. On their return trip, Manly and Rogers recrossed the Panamints farther south, via Goler Canyon.

With Manly and Rogers' return, the surviving members of the Bennett-Arcan party left their wagons at Long Camp and escaped from Death Valley on foot, essentially following the two rescuers return route through Goler Canyon. Olesen again thoroughly describes the travel route and the several water sources the party probably utilized.

The author also covers the escape south from Death Valley of the Wade and Earhart parties. The Wade's wagon was the only one known to have gone all the way, but Olesen speculates that the Earhart's wagon may have gone all the way, too.

The author also spends considerable effort in locating the gravesites of the few who failed to escape Death Valley - Mr. Fish, Mr. Isham, and Captain Colverwell.

For those who wish to travel the 49er routes out of Death Valley, Olesen describes the present state of roads, most of them dirt, some passable only with four-wheel drive vehicles.

The book is enhanced by fifty-two color photographs showing the 49er sites and panoramic viewpoints, eleven topographic maps marked with historic routes and sites, and a Site Location Table giving G.P.S. coordinates. Scholars will regret that there are no endnotes or index.

This superbly researched and well written volume will be warmly welcomed by all Death Valley aficionados. In the opinion of this reviewer, it ranks among the dozen or so best Death Valley books and should be the definitive study of 49er routes out of Death Valley for years to come.

—John Robinson



ABANDONED: The Story of the Greely Arctic Expedition, 1881-1884, by Alden Todd. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 2001. Reprint of 1961 edition, with Foreword by Terrence Cole. 326pp. Maps, Illustrations, Selected Reading, Index. Cloth, \$39.95; paper, \$22.95. Order from University of Alaska Press, 1st Floor Gruening Bldg., University of Alaska, Fairbanks, P.O. Box 756240, Fairbanks, AK 99775-6240 (907) 474-5831

The last frontiers before leaving the planet and blasting off into outer space are Antarctica and the Arctic. Both areas have attracted their share of explorers, but the Arctic region has been far more costly in misguided expeditions and loss of life. Recent books that have examined the perils of this final frontier include Pierre Berton's *Arctic Grail* (1988), Leonard Guttridge's *Icebound* (1986), Robert M. Bryce's *Cook and Peary* (1997), Jennifer Niven's *The Ice Master* (2000),

and a new book by Guttridge on the Greely expedition. *Ghosts of Camp Sabine* (2000). The University of Alaska Press has reprinted Alden Todd's 1961 study of the ill-fated Greely expedition for its Classic Reprint Series.

In 1881 Lt. Adolphus W. Greely set out for the Arctic with two dozen other men as the United States' contribution to the International Polar Year, a cooperative scientific effort to gather data on the polar region. Greely established an outpost, Fort Conger, and for a year the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition (as it was officially titled) collected information on Arctic Ocean tides, confirmation that Greenland was an island, precipitation, barometric pressure, and other data that added knowledge in meteorology, astronomy, physics, biology, and other disciplines. The expedition was supposed to be picked up in the summer of 1882. When it wasn't, Greely was not worried; he had two years' worth of supplies. Matters became serious when a relief ship failed to appear in 1883. The men decided to head south. Finding themselves unable to proceed any farther, they set up a primitive camp at Cape Sabine. Relief did not arrive until June 22, 1884. By then only six men were still alive, the rest dead of starvation or its complications.

Todd tells two stories here: they are the struggle to survive, with all its heroism and human failings, and the incompetence of the War Department and Congress to act in a timely manner to rescue the Greely expedition. While Greely attempted to keep discipline and stretch out meager rations, the U.S. Senate dickered over appropriations for a relief expedition, whether the crewmen should all be volunteers, and how serious was the situation. Secretary of War Robert Todd Lincoln (son of Abraham), who had not supported the expedition in the first place, offered no leadership. Greely's wife Henrietta mounted a successful publicity campaign to get the government to do something. After the survivors were finally rescued, celebrations of their return were marred by inaccurate and malicious newspa-

per stories that described cannibalism, murder, and other misdeeds of the expedition members.

Todd's narrative is well written, solidly based on the papers and diaries of the expedition's men, housed mainly at the Library of Congress. He demonstrates understanding and control over the outrageous statements of the newspapers of the time, proving that a newspaper article written in the 1880s isn't by definition a reliable primary source just because it's more than a century old. Two drawbacks, however, prevent this book from being a definitive study. One is the lack of documentation as footnotes or endnotes. Todd clearly quoted from source materials, but anyone wishing to pursue the topic can't follow up on his writing (except to visit the Library of Congress and start at the beginning). The bibliography is tacked on to the end of the book; five of its nine items were published subsequent to 1961, and Todd obviously did not use them.

The other problem lies with the maps. This edition provides a frontispiece map so microscopic as to be useless. Several contemporary maps from the expedition are too specific to orient the reader to the locations of Fort Conger, Cape Sabine, and other crucial places, and since they are included as inserted illustrations, no page numbers are given for them. Modern maps would have helped in establishing the sense of place. Todd does a fine job of evoking the time, the hardship, and the heroism,

—Abraham Hoffman



GENERAL PATTON, *a Soldiers Life*, Stanley P. Hirschon, Harper Collins Publisher, 2002, 826pp, illustrations, end notes, index, cloth \$35. Order from Harper Collins Publisher, 10 East 53rd Street New York, NY 1002.

Author Stanley P. Hirschon is a professor of history at Queens College in the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He has 88 pages of exhaustive footnotes. It contains fascinating insights into one of America's leading tactical sol-

diers who often made unthinking statements which led to three massacres of German prisoners and civilians at Biscari, Conisca and Canicatti during the Sicilian Campaign. These were not treated with during the famous Patton movie of two decades ago.

Earlier biographical works contended Patton had dyslexia; the author believes that his persistent habit of misspelling was attributable to beginning school only at the age of 12 when he was tutored at Cutter Clark's Classical School for Boys, 39 S. Euclid Ave. in Pasadena. Hirschon contends Patton lacked early skills to correctly spell, and his memoirs and diaries written in adulthood reflect this short coming.

Patton's maternal grandfather was Benjamin D. Wilson who in 1851 became Los Angeles' first mayor. He bought 120 acres in what is now San Marino California, becoming a citrus grower, vintner and rancher and his son-in-law Ames DeBarth Shorb became a neighbor to Patton's Lake Vineyard Ranch, which he called the San Marino Ranch. Shorb then became Wilson's son-in-law. Patton came to West Point by first entering the Virginia Military Institute, where his father and grandfather had been students, and having difficulty in mathematics at West Point, he graduated in the middle of his class but later ranked high in his classes at Army post-graduate schools where he shared his notes with Dwight D. Eisenhower who followed him.

There was considerable wealth on the Patton family side. George S. Patton Senior was a lawyer and became a Democratic candidate for governor against Hiram Johnson. He was a business partner of Henry Huntington, the nephew of the railroad baron, Collis P. Huntington. Patton's wife, Beatrice, was the daughter of a wealthy Massachusetts woolen manufacturer.

Patton was obsessed with thoughts of glory and having a military tradition in the family. He even badgered a position as adjutant to General John Pershing and was assigned as an aide to Pershing during the 1916 Mexican Campaign against Pancho Villa. He saw there an opportunity to have

his sister Anita meet Pershing at Fort Bliss. (She was then 28 and Pershing was 55. Pershing had lost his wife and three daughters six months earlier in a fire at his quarters at the San Francisco Presidio.) The romance blossomed and Anita thought that she was engaged to Pershing, but when he was ordered overseas the marriage never came to pass. Pershing meanwhile romanced a Romanian actress whom he supported during World War I and thereafter until finally marrying her shortly after World War II.

Patton spent only 391 days in combat during his entire life, including the Mexican Campaign and yet he achieved a reputation in just thirteen months that secured him status as a military genius. It took Generals Lee and Grant four years. He had superb subordinates including Wood, Weyland, Ridgeway, Abrams, Bruce Clark, Gaven, and Maxwell Taylor, to name a few. He encouraged and inspired these people to their utmost abilities. "No American officer ever did more to advance his career either by petition, dinner parties for the secretary of war, vice presidents and visiting generals; telephone calls, publicity releases, keeping a string of horses in Central Washington D.C for Mr. Stimson and others to ride."

Patton was anti-labor (he never held a civilian job). He was anti-Semitic and was the son of a Wilsonian Democrat. His becoming an arch conservative probably came from his wife's family whose father owned the American Woolen Company, which in January 1912 sustained a strike from employees who protested wage cuts and unbearable filth in company owned tenements.

There were two distinct Pattons; one with a complex mind, at once broad and narrow, gentle and vulgar, and receptive to new military ideas, but in other ways stagnant and even regressive.

This is a well balanced book worth reading.

—Norman S. Marshall



MADE IN CALIFORNIA: *Art, Image, and Identity, 1900-2000*. by Stephanie Barron, Sheri Berstein, and Ilene Susan Fort. Berkeley: University of California Press and Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), 2000. 352 pp. Illustrations, Selected Bibliography, Index. Cloth, \$50.00; paper, \$24.95. Order from The University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94709 (510) 642-4701.

Made in California: Art, Image, and Identity, 1900-2000 is the companion directory to the exhibition of the same name, presented by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art from October 22, 2000 to February 25, 2001. The exhibition examines the images created by 20th century artists, who have defined, complicated and challenged popular conceptions and myths of California.

The exhibition and book are separated into five twenty-year sections; each organized thematically around key aspects of California's imagery. Each section displays individual items and collages in various media, such as metal, wood, glass, paper, cloth, etc. There was a conglomeration of photos, paintings, sculpture, billboards, surfboards, automobiles, posters, architectural drawings, clothing, furniture, home appliances, jewelry, baskets and ephemera. LACMA delivered these time capsules to the public in five separate areas of the museum and five large chapters in the book: (1) Selling California 1900-1920; (2) Contested Eden 1920-1940; (3) The California Home Front 1940-1960; (4) Tremors in Paradise 1960-1980; and (5) Many Californians 1980-2000. In addition to the exhibition, publications and publicity, LACMA hyped this exhibition by holding concurrent workshops and focus events including discussions, symposiums, music festivals, film programs, off-site and on-site tailored guided tours, writers series and much, much more.

Made in California, the book, contains a representative sample of the artworks that were displayed at the museum and describes a third of the exhibition's 1200 items. Two themes remained central throughout: the physical landscape and the state's cultural

and ethnic character, particularly in relation to Latin America and Asia. California's image in the last century varied tremendously, depending on the time period and the perspectives of those who tried to define it. At the turn of the 19th century a cohesive, idyllic, Eden-like vision prevailed. Since then increasingly diverse representations of the state have circulated. Artists, commercial promoters, political, social and religious reformers, and others, just vexed and complex, have put forth contrasting and often competing viewpoints. The exhibition does not compromise these diverse and diverging views from former times. As you time travel on your tour (walking or reading), you can live or relive much of California's experience. In addition to the exhibit checklist, the authors paint a story line of California's environmental and social impact on each artist's work. Richard Rodriguez's personal life story acts as an epilogue to the book in *Where the Poppies Grow*, inspired by a painting by Granville Redmond, *California Poppy Field*, c. 1926.

With this said, this reviewer cannot and will not make a value judgment as to the quality or worthiness of this prodigious one hundred-year imagery. One man's lemon is another man's lemonade. But the selected art is comprehensive and will make every thinking person *think*. You, the reader, together with your own sense of values and morals will find pleasure or distaste in these images. As an example of this contrast, picture a retired short sleeved Dwight D. Eisenhower barbecuing a steak at his La Quinta ranch in juxtaposition to a bullet-ridden window front of the Black Panther Party National Headquarters.

This book makes all of us think about just where (and why) we have been in the Golden State, how we've evolved into this extremely complex and diverse society, and just possibly gives us a glimpse of where we are headed. *Made in California* is highly recommended for all our Westerners. For Southlanders it may be purchased at the LACMA gift shop.

— Kenneth Pauley