

Author rendition of Manly-Rogers trails through the Panamints.

The Manly-Rogers Trails Through The Slate Range of California in 1850

by John Southworth

The Bennett-Arcane party of gold rush emigrants to California had reached the southern end of what is now known as Death Valley in the very last week of 1849.

Exhausted and at the end of their resources, those lost emigrants decided to recoup at a living spring of good water while two of their number went on for help in the Spanish coastal settlements.

Two young men, John Rogers and Lewis

Manly, both in their twenties, volunteered their services. Having nothing on which to base their estimate, they thought they could be back with help within fifteen days. It was closer to thirty days and the help they brought was little more than excellent trail information. In any event, their four hundred mile round trip journey in thirty days has to go down in history as a great act

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EDITOR'S CORNER

After reading John Southworth's detailed description of the Manly-Rogers trail through the Slate Range we recommend that a party of Westerners be organized to follow the route on foot. This expedition should be organized very soon before it gets too hot. The leader would of course be our current Sheriff, Ken Pauley. He could fly the party to Death Valley which would save time and send countless emails explaining everything. The other members would be Eric Nelson who could handle any legal issues; Abe Hoffman who would keep a daily record which could be turned into a book; William Warren who would be the only member able to read a map; Jerry Selmer who would collect any artifacts that might be found and these could be sold to cover costs; Paul Rippens who could build a fire and then put it out; and finally Bob Kern who could tell lies around the camp fire at night. I am sure we have left some people out and obviously many Westerners will have other suggestions. We however will be too busy to participate in this adventure. Good luck to all

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The intersection of two emigrant trails. The Brier trail enters this picture at left center and exits at lower right. The Manly-Rogers-Bennett-Arcane trail enters through the wide saddle in the right middle distance and exits at the lower right. All parties, including Manly and Rogers on their round trip mission of rescue, on separate occasions camped near the center of this picture. View is northeast across Panamint Valley from the south end of Manly Pass. Courtesy of the author.

of heroism. No one would ever have known what had happened to the men, women and children of the Bennett-Arcane party had they not returned to rescue the perishing?

It is not at all clear what route Manly and Rogers took to get out of Death Valley proper. Even the beginning point of their trek cannot be determined with any great accuracy since the living spring at the Bennett-Arcane Long Camp has since dried up. It is known, however, that the two traversed Butte Valley and exited the Panamint Range via Redlands Canyon.

From the mouth of Redlands Canyon, the two struck southwest directly across Panamint Valley toward the lowest visible point on the Slate Range which now formed their western horizon. The path they took crossed the mud flats of the Panamint Valley playa at the narrowest point. They were headed for Manly Pass, so named by Dr. John Eliot Wolff sometime in the 1930's.

Manly Pass is a wide swath that extends for perhaps a mile along the ridge of the Slate Range some nine miles northeast of the town of Trona, California.

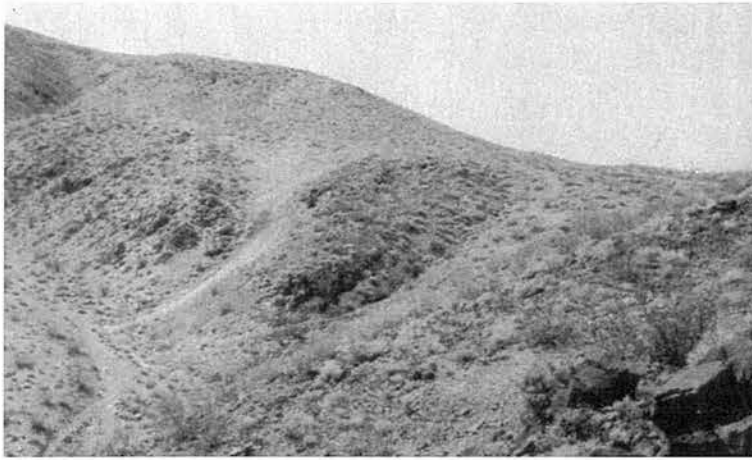
Two canyons also named by Dr. Wolff, head in the north corner of Manly Pass, Fish Canyon on the east side, and Isham Canyon on the west. Both of these named canyons

remain as memorials to 1849 gold rush emigrants who did not survive the strenuous Slate Range crossing.

Four additional major canyons, only one presently named, all top out within yards of each other in the south end of wide Manly Pass. Goff Canyon, with a later, non-emigrant name, heads in the extreme southwest corner. An unnamed canyon, also from the west, heads at almost the same place, while two unnamed branches of Fish Canyon almost join them from the east.

The southern crest of Manly Pass is a high, strange, almost flat area of perhaps two acres of hard, black desert pavement with a few struggling brushy plants where a dedicated 4x4 driver, if he knows how to get there, can enjoy a gorgeous view and think of an exhausted pioneer who died practically beneath his feet.

Originally, about one hundred men, women and children had come down Furnace Creek Wash into Death Valley in the last week of 1849. Confronted by massive, snow covered Telescope Peak, about half (including the Bennett and Arcane families) turned south while the others turned north. The Jayhawker group and the Brier family, going north, crossed the Panamint Range at Townes Pass and walked south down Panamint Valley.



The emigrant trails continue south and west from the previous picture. All enter at the lower left: corner and exit at the crest of the Slate Range at right center. An old Indian and animal trail is still in evidence cutting diagonally across the center of the picture. Courtesy of the author.

Those who called themselves Jayhawkers crossed the Slate Range into Searles Valley at the present highway crossing some twelve miles north of Trona while the Brier party, which now included Mr. Fish, Mr. Isham and others, continued south to cross into Searles Valley through Manly Pass.

The Brier family ascended Fish Canyon, found some water at what they called the Silent Sepulcher, and continued upward to a dry camp just below the summit. It was but a few days later that Manly and Rogers arrived at the very same camp via the very dry, southernmost branch of Fish Canyon.

After ascending a distinctive east-facing ridge which would become a landmark for their return trip three weeks later, the two had found their way, probably along the native trail still in evidence, down into the Fish Canyon watershed and upward into the south end of Manly Pass where they joined the Brier trail just below the summit.

Mr. Fish died on the barren summit under circumstances well described by Mrs. Brier in later letters.

On that sad summit Manly and Rogers left the Brier trail and descended into Searles Valley by a different route (via Goff Canyon).

Manly, in his classic book *Death Valley* in '49, describes their first westbound crossing of Panamint Valley and the Slate Range

in the following few words:

... when we reached the valley we crossed a clear stream of water flowing slowly

Being in need of water, we rushed eagerly to it and prepared to take a big drink, but it was salt as brine and made our thirst all the more intolerable.

We now began the ascent of the next ridge, keeping a westerly course, and walked as fast as we could up the rough mountain side. We crossed the head of a canyon near the summit about dark and here we found a trail, which from indications we knew to be that of the Jayhawkers, who had evidently been forced to the southward of the course they intended to take.

In the morning we started on, and near the summit we came to the dead body of Mr. Fish, laying in the hot sun, as there was no material near here with which which his friends could cover the remains.

We had followed the Jayhawker trail thus far, but as we found no water in small holes in the rocks as we were likely to do when we were the first to pass, we decided to take a new route in the hope of finding it in the other.



The Bennett-Arcane party followed this trail up the east face of the Slate Range in 1850. This old Indian trail was followed by later miners going to the mines in Goler Wash. Courtesy of the author.

The two eventually found help at Rancho San Francisquito near present Newhall, California. The rancho was named for the major branch of the Rio San Francisco, now the Santa Clara River.

Returning immediately to the desert with three horses, the famous one-eyed mule, a bit of food and a lot of trail information, the two intrepid trail blazers crossed Searles Valley eastbound following the westbound Brier trail. In so doing they passed the grave of Mr. Isham who had died of thirst and exhaustion within hours of Mr. Fish.

They crested the Slate Range at the south end of Manly Pass, continued on a few yards to a dry camp near where they and the Briers had earlier stopped, and in the morning found their way into the south fork of Fish Canyon headed down the familiar trail to their marker ridge.

Today a rough but much used trail abruptly leaves the defile of the Fish Canyon drainage, climbs up and over a distinctive ridge, and winds its way down the east face of the Slate Range headed for Goler Wash in the Panamint Range some six miles south of

Redlands Canyon.

The present trail down the east face of the Slate Range skirts the Panamint Valley salt flats exactly as described by Manly. Those salt flats are fifteen miles long and come nowhere near the eastern escarpment of the Slate Range except at this one spot directly opposite the mouth of Goler Wash.

Manly described the eastbound rescue trip across the Slate Range and Panamint Valley in the following words:

Near the Eastern edge of the valley we turned aside to visit the grave of Mr. Isham, which they had told us of. They had covered his remains with their hands as best they could, piling up a little mound of sand over it. Our next camp was to be on the summit of the range just before us, and we passed the dead body of Mr. Fish, we had seen before, and go on a little to a level sandy spot in the ravine just large enough to sleep on.

So we loaded the mule and made our way down the rocky road to the ridge, and then left the Jayhawker's trail, taking our course more south so as

to get around a salt lake which lay directly before us. On our way we had to go close to a steep bluff, and cross a piece of ground that looked like a well dried mortar bed, hard and smooth as ice, and thus got around the head of a small stream of clear water, salt as brine. We now went directly to the mouth of the canyon we had decided to take, and travelled up its gravelly bed.

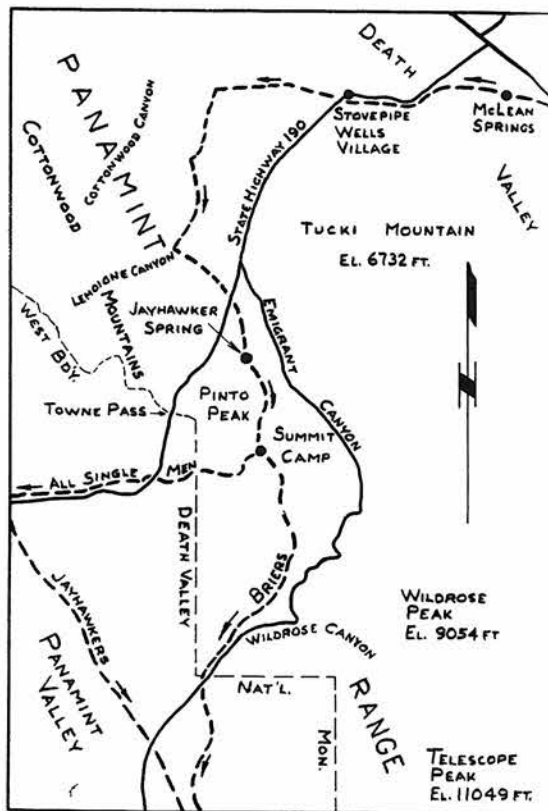
Manly and Rogers continued their eastward trek. through Goler Wash and Butte Valley into Death Valley, found the Bennett and Arcane families still waiting (all the rest had left long since) and then walked the two hundred mile rescue trail for the third time, reaching Rancho San Francisquito, all hands intact, on March 7, 1850.

For those readers with an interest in and access to USGS topography maps, the final escape route of the Manly-Rogers-Bennett-Arcane party of emigrants through the Slate Range in 1850 exits the Panamint Range via Goler Wash near the upper right hand corner of the Copper Queen Canyon, California, 7.5 minute series quadrangle map, bears a bit north of due west, skirts south of the Panamint Valley dry lake playa, and exits the map northwest onto the Manly Fall, California, 7.5 minute series map where it continues more or less straight west to Manly's marker ridge in the extreme southwest corner.

The trail continues onto the Trona East, California, 7.5 minute quadrangle map in its exact northeast corner, moves south roughly parallel to the east border of the map crosses the extreme southeast end of Manly Pass, and heads down an unnamed canyon which passes through the letter "L" in the prominent feature label "SLATE RANGE".

After exiting the Slate Range at a point just south of Isham Canyon, the trail continues on, vectoring south of west across Searles Valley headed for Indian Joe (Providence) Spring some three miles north of Trona, California.

The common corner of the three named 7.5 minute USGS maps is at 35 degrees, 52 minutes, 30 seconds north latitude and 117



Author rendition of routes through Death Valley.

degrees, 15 minutes west longitude, close to the point where Manly and Rogers bravely abandoned their earlier, known trail in favor of an unknown but hopefully better rescue trail through Goler Wash.

Selected Readings

Belden, L. Burr, *Death Valley Heroine*, San Bernardino, 1954.

Manly, William Lewis. *Death Valley in '49*. San Jose. 1894.

Olesen, E.G., *Rancho San Francisquito and the Death Valley '49ers*. Santa Ana, 2005.

A Memoir of Thirty-five Years

Msgr. Francis J. Weber

Over many years, this old country priest has received far more plaudits, distinctions and awards than he ever really deserved. But one which stands especially tall among the others is my membership in the Los Angeles Corral of Westerners. Founded on December 19, 1946, with H.E. Britzman as Sheriff, its avowed purpose is to enable people with common interests "to meet monthly to exchange information and knowledge relative to the cultural and historical background of what is commonly termed the west."

My earliest association with the corral dates back to the mid 1960s when I was teaching at Queen of Angels Seminary in Mission Hills. The legendary Mark Harrington, a close friend and a "fixture" at San Fernando Mission, lived across the street on Memory Park Avenue. In exchange for driving him to the monthly Westerners' meetings, he would treat me to dinner and, afterward, the program at Taix Restaurant on Sunset Boulevard.

I became a corresponding member of the corral in 1969. The first issue of *The Branding Iron*, the corral's quarterly publication to carry one of my articles, June, 1970, dealt with "Mexico's Bi-Centennial Stamp," the one bearing the wrong likeness of Fray Junipero Serra. It is not clear in my mind whether I maintained an actual membership during those early years since, as a poor country priest, I was enjoying all the advantages of membership through the kindness of Dr. Harrington. In the annual roster, my name was listed as a corresponding member in 1970, 1972, 1974, 1980 and 1982.

It was in June of 1973 that members of the Los Angeles Corral first came to San Fernando Mission for their annual *Fandango*. At the time, the mission was still unrepaired after the devastating Sylmar earthquake. Two years later, my essay on "Antonio F. Coronel and the Serra Centenary" appeared in *The Branding Iron*. During those years, I

was frequently called upon to preach at the funerals of corral members. Among the several dozen buried under my mantle were Mark Harrington, Carl Dentzel, Stanley Malora and Earl Adams. Mayor Tom Bradley attended Carl Dentzel's funeral at Forest Lawn and afterward asked if I was a Catholic priest. Apparently, I had played the ecumenical card a bit too broadly.

A number of times I spoke at one or another of the corral's monthly meetings. The topic for the May, 1982 meeting, for example, was "The Miniature World of A Catholic Archivist." There were five or six other occasions, including the one where I spoke on the "Toiletry at the California Missions." In the invitation for that gathering, the announcement read: "Everybody did it, but no one wrote about it."

Over the years, there were a dozen or so of my articles that appeared in *The Branding Iron*, the most important, of which in my humble opinion, was the one entitled "Myths, Mythology and the California Missions" which endeavored to prove that "good history drives bad history out of existence." That essay was reprinted in monograph form and continues to be widely in demand.

There is a hierarchy of membership in the Westerners. I was advanced to associate status in 1984 and then to active membership two years later. As far as memory serves me, I am the only priest ever to be an active member of the corral. In 1994, I was elected Deputy Sheriff of the Los Angeles Corral and, in that position, was in charge of arranging the programs for the following year. The stellar speakers included Hugh Tolford, Joe Lesser, Judson Grenier, Glen Dawson, Ron Woolsey, John Johnson, John Langellier, Doyce B. Nunis, Norman Neuerberg, Jarrel Jackman and Abraham Hoffman.

My term as sheriff was fairly uneventful, with the exception of the rather "monumen-

tal" transition of welcoming women as active members, a change which took place with only a whimper of opposition. Upon completion of my term I was presented with a beautiful painting of San Fernando Mission by Western artist Bill Bender.

Early in 1996, the Trail Bosses of the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerns commissioned me to compile *Brand Book 21* which was to be an anthology of the more outstanding articles that had appeared in *The Branding Iron* during the first half century of its existence. The finished, 333-page book, published in 1999, contains a small but representative portion of the truly significant writings of Westerners since 1948. In two other *Brand Books*, I wrote essays on "The Mission Ranches" (1997) and "The California Missions" (2004).

Of this date there are 53 active, 9 honorary, 17 ranger active, 15 associate members, together with about three dozen who are "corresponding."

May their tribe increase!



Wanted Man

He rides that big, black stallion
And always wears a gun
He is a WANTED MAN
He's always on the run

He had been an honest rancher
Who really loved his wife
But somehow in that ugly fight
He stabbed her and took her life

So he had to take the outlaw trail
And robbed a bank in Waco
Then he killed a man in Tombstone
He was always on the go

His son became a lawman
Who vowed he'd find his Dad
And end a sad relationship
One they never really had

As fate has that certain way
It decreed that they should meet
So the Father-Son faced off
On a lonely, dusty street

The old man jerked his gun
But the Son, he never drew
And so the Son lay dying
When that awful fight was through

The Father knelt there by his Son
(You could feel the pain and grief)
He brushed back a wayward hair
(The moment was that brief)

Then back aboard that big, black horse
And he swiftly rode away
He knew exactly what would happen
If he tried to stop or stay

So he rides from town to town
Stays only as long as he can
But there is no hope-no rest
He is a WANTED MAN

—Loren Wendt



September Meeting Speaker John Krizek

SEPTEMBER MEETING

John Krizek has worked for the Transamerica Corporation and has served in the naval reserves for over forty years. He has been involved in preservation projects with the California Historical Society. In recent years he has developed a production studio and been involved in several PBS historical documentaries. John has previously spoken to the corral which presaged the PBS special on the Stevens-Townshend-Murphy Saga across the Sierra Mountains. Krizek's September topic involved the efforts of William Lewis Manly and John Rogers to save an ill-fated gold rush overland party stranded in Death Valley.

In the fall of 1849 several wagon trains arrived in Salt Lake City. The ill-fated Donner Party was still fresh in the minds of many overland travelers, and there were rumors of a southern route to Los Angeles which bypassed the ominous Sierras. Captain Hunt led an expedition taking the shortcut to southern California, following the Old Spanish Trail and a map from John C. Fremont's expeditions. A hand-designed route along a unexplored region of the map suggested a shortcut of several hundred miles. One hundred wagons took this untested route against the protestations of Hunt, who led the seven remaining wagons on the longer route. Within days the wagon trains experienced rough terrain and cold weather.

Several wagons returned to the main party, but twenty-seven wagons continued to press on into the wilderness.

John discussed the Manly recounting of events, using 1929 woodcut versions of the expedition and photographs of the region. The wagon trains headed along the valley floor, across the Devil's Golf Course and along the contour of the Panamint Mountains, desperately searching for a mountain pass out of this "God-forsaken" country. Without water, delirious at times, spirits low, the Illinois Jayhawkers killed oxen, and settled near a small spring they discovered at the valley floor. With the possibility of only two weeks worth of food left to the encampment, Manly and Rogers set out on a rescue mission across the Panamint Mountains, reaching Indian Wells, then on toward the Santa Clara River (near Acton) and Placerita Canyon. They finally reached the meadows and cattle ranches near present-day Valencia.

Manly and Rogers enlisted help from the local rancheros, acquiring horses, food and supplies. They appreciated the help of the Californios and returned to their stranded brethren. They reached the camp on February 9, nearly four weeks from the time they started their 500 mile round-trip journey, finding that the pioneers except for one had survived. One of the families had escaped south along the Old Spanish Trail and had successfully reached southern California. The rescue mission had been a success and the survivors were quickly absorbed into the gold rush society of California.

John Krizek explained the development of his forthcoming production involving this escape from Death Valley. The expertise of Kevin Starr and other authorities helped provide the historical context of the Manly-Rogers rescue mission. He also highlighted the various locations for matching current photographs with the descriptions provided in Manly's memoirs.

Krizek indicated that the project is nearly half funded and hopes are high that the project will be realized by 2007.

Photograph by Froy Tiscareño.



Photograph by Larry Boerio

November Meeting Speaker Bill Warren

NOVEMBER MEETING

Bill Warren took corral members on a travel trip to the Canadian Northwest. Alexander Mackenzie led a monumental 1893 expedition across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, a trip which followed a Mackenzie expedition to the Arctic Ocean. Bill supplemented his discussion of Mackenzie with detailed maps of his exploration throughout the Canadian wilderness.

Mackenzie is important for several reasons. During the late eighteenth century, contemporary explorers such as Vancouver and Cook had missed identifying the Colombia River, and their oversight left to Mackenzie the distinction of identifying and exploring the river's course.

Bill traced Mackenzie's upbringing, beginning with his family's move from New York to Canada during the American Revolution. In 1779, as a teenager, Alexander obtained a position with the North West Company, and then traveled to Lake Athabasca and founded Fort Chipewyan in 1788. He later came into contact with Peter Pond, a cartographer and partner in the North West Company. Warren displayed Pond's map of Slave Lake in the North Pacific at Cook Inlet (near present-day Anchorage, Alaska). Pond's contact with the First Nations revealed that the local rivers flowed to the northwest. With this informa-

tion, Mackenzie set out with a canoe to find the Northwest Passage. His exploits led to the discovery of Mackenzie River, which he named "Disappointment River" since it did not lead to Cook's Inlet in Alaska. Nevertheless, Mackenzie had discovered the Arctic Ocean. In later expeditions, this early explorer traveled across the Continental Divide and the Rocky Mountains, discovered the Frasier River, and made a transcontinental crossing to the Pacific coast of Canada. According to Warren, Mackenzie's exploits were a partial motivation for Thomas Jefferson's support of the Corp of Discovery.

Bill detailed the topography and difficulty of Mackenzie's travels from Frasier River to Bella Coola, a 280 mile route that included dangerous rapids and a constant rising and ebbing river flow leading to the Pacific Ocean. His colorful and detailed maps augmented the discussion and provided the context for appreciating this important explorer of the late eighteenth century.



Photograph by Larry Boerio

December Meeting Speaker Marc Wanamaker

DECEMBER MEETING

Marc Wanamaker provided an overview of the myth and reality in western film history. Marc was a child actor and stunt man in a previous life, and grew up in the shadow of film star's such as Tim McCoy and Ray Crash Corrigan. Marc's passion in recent

years has been the study of western cinema. He used an exhaustive slide collection to complement his presentation.

Marc began his talk with a discussion of the importance of photographer, Eadweard Muybridge. The famed photographer is credited with creating the first motion picture, which captured one of Leland Stanford's prized race horses in full stride. Marc proceeded to discuss the heyday of the Edison film studio in New York during the first decade of the twentieth century. Director Edward S. Porter produced the first major western film of the Edison Company, *The Great Train Robbery* (1903), which produced a national sensation with scenes that included a gunman turning with a pointed gun at the audience, street shootouts, explosions, and holdups. These never-before-seen film clips enthralled patrons.

Wanamaker also discussed the early stars such as William S. Hart, Tom Mix, and Broncho Billy Anderson. Many of Broncho Billy's early films showcased real cowboys, hardened men who had been chiseled from a fading frontier. Many of these films used crude wooden sets that were fragile and required bright lighting for filming. By 1907, Selig Film Studio of Chicago came to southern California to film *The Count of Monte Cristo*. The film was shot near the rural expanse in east Hollywood at familiar streets such as Los Feliz and Franklin Avenue, and Sunset Boulevard. Marc noted that the Charlie Chaplin and Keystone studios were later built among the citrus groves near Santa Paula.

By 1913, southern California was rapidly becoming the most attractive region for producing motion pictures. The climate, western ambiance, and proximity of Mexico were key attractions for film directors David Wark Griffith, Max Sennett, Cecil B. DeMille and others.

Marc discussed the "real West" in terms of the rugged southern California terrain used in many western films. *The Mark of Zorro*, *The Squaw Man*, *Ramona*, and other notable silent films used eucalyptus trees, rolling hills, missions, and ranches that

served as a backdrop for these films. Authentic Native Americans were often employed as "extras."

Whether or not the western film genre was imagined or real, Marc's collection of rare early photographs provided a unique glimpse at the streets and name places of southern California's past, when Los Angeles and its surroundings were in transition from a western settlement to a urban center.



Photograph by Larry Boerio.

January Meeting Speaker Nick Curry

JANUARY MEETING

Nick Curry provided a detailed overview of the Guggenheim family and legacy. He discussed Harry Guggenheim's involvement with the origins of the California Technical Institute's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The Guggenheim fortunes began with the emigration of Meyer Guggenheim to Philadelphia in 1848. His silver mine strikes in Leadville, Colorado were the cornerstone of the Guggenheim fortune. Many of the sons and grandsons were products of Andrew Carnegie's "Gospel of Wealth," becoming philanthropists and donors for several universities, museums, and aviation and science projects.

Nick outlined the various academic pursuits and contributions of the Guggenheim heirs. One grandson, Harry Frank

Guggenheim, purchased *Newsday* and created his own foundation in the pursuit of the nature and causes of aggression and violence in human behavior. Solomon Guggenheim enjoyed art collection and joined with Frank Lloyd Wright in designing the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City. Harry Frank Guggenheim was an aviator in World War I and later sponsored Charles Lindberg's tour around the country following his epic overseas flight in 1927. He was an early proponent of United States rocketry programs and convinced his father, Daniel Guggenheim, to support various aviation projects. The financial support of Guggenheim and others led to improvements in refining the piston engine during the 1930s—an early rocketry accomplishment that would presage the development of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Technical Institute in Pasadena. Nick complemented his overview with a slide presentation of the Guggenheim family members and associates.

The Dream

The Sacred Tree no longer stands
Lying there for all the Tribe to see
And an Indian dream has ended
Ended forever at Wounded Knee

The One Above could not help
Women, children, old ones died
On a peaceful and sunny day
Now snow hides the Indians pride

Bodies scattered here and there
Warriors tried their best to fight
But they too were slaughtered
In the peaceful camp that night

Soon the Sacred Tree will crumble
The bodies left for all to see
The One Above will sing the song
Of the dream that ended at Wounded Knee

—Loren Wendt



Corral Chips

ABE HOFFMAN, the Grand Humbug for the Platrix Chapter of E Clampus Vitus, delivered the 2006 introductory remarks at the dedication of the plaque honoring the 50th anniversary of the American version of "Godzilla, King of the Monsters." The plaque has been placed on the site of the new elementary school where once stood KRI studios, the location where Raymond Burr acted in the scenes for the 1957 American version of the Japanese film. Corral members **GARY TURNER**, **GLENN THORNHILL**, and **BILL WARREN** were also present for the ceremony.

WALT BETHEL is busy working on a chapter entry for the forthcoming Brand Book on aviation in southern California. His chapter deals with the Alhambra, Grand Central, and Burbank airports. Walt and his wife, Susan, continue to edit the newsletter for the San Luis Obispo County Historical Society.

Congratulations goes to **ERNEST MARQUEZ** on his recent publication, *Santa Monica Beach, A Collector's Pictorial History*. As Monsignor Weber noted, "this book surely is an attractive and treasured record of America's heritage." This colorful work begins with the Mexican land grants given to Francisco Marquez and Ysidro Reyes in 1839.

Recently, **MONSIGNOR WEBER** and **DOYCE NUNIS** shared the prestigious Norman Neuerburg Award from the 22nd Annual Conference of the California Mission Studies Association. This honor highlighted their vast scholarship and dedication to the continued study and preservation of California's missions.

The Bachelor Buckaroo

Some say that I'm a hopeless romantic
A bachelor buckaroo
They say that I'm married to the job
And although that may be true

I still long to be attached
To something other than my steed
And only female companionship
Can fulfill this basic need

I'm pushing 35 this year
And my poor Mom is starting to worry
But I don't like to rush right into things
Or to be in too great a hurry

She came to visit me last week
To break the monotony of line shack life
And to point out her lack of grand kids
That would necessitate a wife

"Have ya tried those mail order brides",
she'd say
That's how yer uncle tied the knot
I told her that I'd consider it
If she could fit into the mail box that we got

Well, we continued to discuss my options
Of courtin and of hitchin
When I noticed her attention being drawn
To a picture in the kitchen

Then the conversation suddenly stopped
And she got up from her chair
She picked the picture up
And then gave it a good long stare

A slow sweet smile came over her face
Followed by words of adulation
But I guess that I was a bit confused
By the cause for her celebration

She said the pretty young gal in the picture
Made her heart swell up with pride
Just to know that the bachelor son of hers
Was going to finally take himself a bride

The she remarked about our children
That we had yet to have had
And she offered us her congratulations
To the new Mom and Dad

But I knew that I had to make up something
quick
When she asked me for her name
Cause I didn't have the heart to tell her
That the picture came with the frame

—J.D. Seibert





Photo by Larry Boerio

Westerners anxiously awaiting the book acutions.



Photo by Larry Boerio

A few of the items auctioned at the Rendezvous.

Rendezvous 2005

Ramon and Mary Ann Otero graciously offered their home and enchanting grounds for the 2005 Rendezvous. This year there was a new wrinkle to the Rendezvous gala. Along with the traditional auction a fixed price book sale replaced the silent auction, which allowed corral members to purchase books and art work of their choice. Jerry Selmer was the honored guest for his many contributions to the Los Angeles corral. Western music and a delicious barbecue dinner with all the trimmings complemented the festivities.

Several corral members worked to make the event a success. Special thanks goes to the usual suspects, including **Paul Rippens**, **Eric Nelson**, **Gary Turner**, **Ken Pauley**, **Mike Patris**, **John Southworth**, and **Andrew Dagosta**. **Paul Showalter** compiled and illustrated the Rendezvous invitation. Many thanks also go to the corral members who worked as auction runners and assisted in set-up and other arrangements that made for a special October afternoon.



Photo by Larry Boerio

Draw!

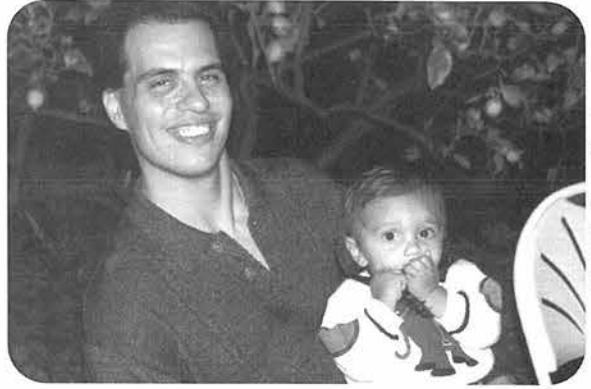


Photo by Larry Boerio

Paul Spitzzeri and a future Westerner.



Photo by Larry Boerio

Friends having fun.

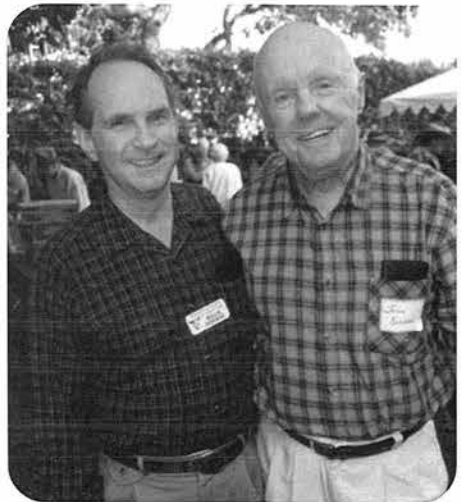


Photo by Larry Boerio

Two San Gabriel Mountain Trail Blazers.



Photo by Larry Boerio

Michael and Mudd Patris.



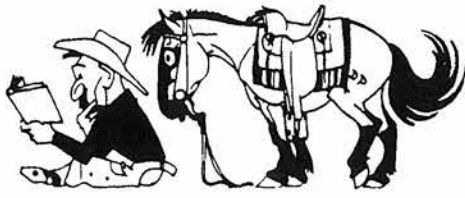
Photo by Larry Boerio

Mrs. Gary Turner with a "Kenny Rogers" Impersonator.



Photo by Larry Boerio

Dee Dee Ruhlow and Eric Nelson do their bit to organize the auction sales.



DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL ...

GOLD RUSH SAINTS: *California Mormons and the Great Rush for Riches*, by Kenneth N. Owens. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2005. 397pp. Illustrations, Bibliography, Index. Paper, \$19.95. Order from University of Oklahoma Press, Order Dept, 2800 Venture Drive, Norman, OK 73069-8218; (800) 627-7377; www.oupres.com.

Countless books and articles have been written about the California Gold Rush, leaving one to wonder what untapped viewpoint or unknown resources is left to tell the tale in a new way. Kenneth Owens, professor emeritus at Cal State Sacramento, responds to the challenge with a work that will appeal not only to scholars and teachers but to anyone looking for a fresh approach to Gold Rush history. The usual view of Mormons and the Gold Rush centers on the controversial actions of Sam Brannan and the Utah-centric position taken by Brigham Young. Owens demonstrates there is much more to be said about Mormons in the Gold Rush. Mormons arrived in California on the ship *Brooklyn* before gold was discovered, and they also showed up as the Mormon Battalion during the U.S.-Mexico War. A number of Mormons found employment with John Sutter who hired carpenters, masons, farmers, and anyone else who could offer skills he need for building his New Helvetia empire. One of Sutter's projects, as it happened, was the construction of a sawmill on the American River.

At this point the old cliché comes into play, "The rest, as they say, is history." But who said it? Here is where Owens makes his original contribution to Gold Rush literature.

Rather than tell the story as a narrative, he calls on the Mormons to tell the story. It turns out that not only did James Marshall supervise a work crew that consisted of many Mormons, some of them wrote down their versions of the discovery. Owens interweaves his narrative with generous excerpts from journals, diaries, newspaper articles, recollections, oral history accounts, and all kinds of primary sources. James S. Brown and Henry W. Bigler told of their reaction to the discovery in the mill race, and many other accounts relate experiences in traveling to and from California, the rigors of prospecting, the temptations of sin, and other adventures.

Owens's book thus is neither an anthology nor a retrospective narrative, but instead offers eyewitness history. John Borrowman kept a journal in which he recorded his daily take from the diggings in May 1848 as well as the days when he "rested in camp." His earnings ranged from \$5 on May 23 to \$50 on May 29. Albert Thurber returned to Utah and in an interview with Brigham Young told him he had come back with "2 mules, an old pair of boots and hat, a pair of pants and [a] flannel sheet, \$4.50 in gold dust." Prospectors calculated the value of their gold dust by weighing it against the weight of a Spanish dollar.

Owens covers more than the discovery of gold and the arrival of Mormons in California. Brigham Young warned his Saints not to go to the Babylon of California, but the diggings already had hundreds of Mormons on mining claims, and others would find the attraction irresistible. Young feared California would corrupt Mormons. But many Mormons not only avoided corruption, they found California a land of opportunity where they could start farms and use their skills in building roads, houses, and businesses. When Young called the Mormons back to Utah for the so-called Mormon War, some remained in California where they had already committed themselves to the new state's opportunities.

The Arthur H. Clark Company first published this book in hardback in 2004; the

University of Oklahoma Press edition is a sturdily bound paperback. Otherwise, it's the same book, with a buyer deciding whether the more expensive hardback is preferable to the less expensive paperback. Either way, Owens provides a text that truly opens a window on the California Gold Rush in a context that demonstrates Mormons had a great deal to do with this famous event.

—Abraham Hoffman



A GUIDE TO MT. BALDY & SAN ANTONIO CANYON: by Willis Osborne. 2005, 84 pages; Photos, Maps, Chronology, Suggested Reading, and Index. ISBN 0-9773452-0-3, Paper, \$10:00. Order from Willis Osborne, (626)963-2917, socialwilliso@aol.com.

Osborne has created an interesting, informative, and multifaceted guide book to San Antonio Canyon. Each facet reflects one of the canyon's many treasures to be discovered by the visitor. "Take any or all," is implied by Osborne's prose. With this guide in hand, all are within the reach of the canyon guest.

This pocket or pack size guide will not only inform and advise the most ardent high altitude trail trekker, but also the older couple out for a Sunday drive in their ol' Studebaker. There is something for everyone within its cover. Readers will find more than they ever wanted to know about San Antonio Canyon and the surrounding area.

The why-of-it-all is detailed in a brief history. This history includes old photos depicting many of the pioneers, their structures and locations. The excitement of the 1870 Gold Rush, the glory days of Foster and Ruth Curry's Camp Baldy, the doin's and demise of the beautiful Wagon Wheel Casino; Roy Chapman's Icehouse Resort, plus many more of the old camps and lodges are again brought to life by Osborne. A chronology covering 155 years lists the highs and lows, the hay days and disasters, the joys and heartbreaks which formed the San Antonio Canyon we see today.

Nine hikes are detailed and described, including photos and mileage. Each hike offers a different challenge and reward. A beautiful forest, clear cold stream, wide vistas of the surrounding peaks or the Mojave Desert, are but a few of Nature's treasures which can be observed, absorbed and photographed. Winter hiking is also available below the snow line.

The animals, plants, geology, as well as the joy of the changing seasons are described and defined. Each season offers a different list of activities. There are many opportunities available for winter snow sports. Skiing or just playing in the snow offers fun for everyone in the family.

The current resorts, restaurants, stores, trout ponds, lodges and ski areas are listed along with their services, accommodations and phone numbers to call for more information and/or reservations.

This guide suggests that the Mt. Baldy Visitor Center is a must for the first time visitor as well as those needing an Adventure Pass or the hiker needing a free wilderness permit. The center also contains a small museum, gift shop, restrooms, picnic area and outdoor displays.

Osborne's guide has unveiled one of the best kept secrets hidden within the San Gabriel Mountains just north of Upland, Claremont, and Montclair. A magical place to be enjoyed by all.

The back pocket of your hiking shorts needs a copy, so does your friend's back pack and don't forget the glove compartment in the ol' Studebaker!

—Terry Terrell



GATEWAYS TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA by John W. Robinson. Arcadia, CA: Big Santa Anita Historical Society, 2005. 489 pp. Maps, photographs, endnotes, bibliography, index. ISBN 0-9615421-8-7. Hardcover, \$45. Order from The Big Santa Anita Historical Society, PO Box 660445, Arcadia, CA 91066-0455, www.mtlowe.net/BigSantaAnitaBook.htm.

John Robinson has written extensively about the history and landscape of the rugged mountains that rim southern California. In this capstone work he surveys the few notches that let transportation corridors pass through these barriers, giving us an account of the landforms and of how people have modified them that is both geographical and historical. Robinson provides rich background material about the people and events he describes, putting them into a larger context of exploration, road building, freighting, stagecoaching, mining, railroad expansion, civic ambition, and the automobile age.

The book is divided into fourteen chapters. The first gives an overview of the predominantly east-west pattern of pre-contact Native American trade and travel throughout the southland. The remaining chapters are organized by geographical areas and within those areas by historical period. Just listing them all is lengthy.

One chapter describes Juan Bautista de Anza's route from Tubac and Yuma through San Carlos Pass to Mission San Gabriel, while the next, much longer, chapter describes Spanish explorations of the Vallecito corridor and Warner's Pass and the route's later use by Anglo and Sonoran gold seekers. The next two chapters describe San Geronio Pass, between the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains. The first of these chapters includes the Mexican-era explorations for a road through the pass to Yuma and the American-era Bradshaw road to the Colorado River mining camps at La Paz and Ehrenberg. Freight wagons and stagecoaches used the Bradshaw road heavily in the 1860s and 1870s, but today only traces remain. The next chapter treats the railroad and automobile eras.

Explaining the various alignments through Cajon Pass requires three chapters: The first describes its role in Native American livestock rustling and in pack-mule trade over the Old Spanish Trail from Santa Fe. The second describes its role in American-period freight wagon traffic to Utah. The third describes its extensive devel-

opment in the railroad and automobile eras. Next are two chapters about San Fernando Pass. The first describes how this very steep pass made the going hard for travelers in Hispanic and Anglo periods until Beale's Cut through the sandstone ridge first eased the grade in the 1850s. The second is devoted to railroad and automobile routes including the Southern Pacific railroad tunnel beneath the pass, the 1910 Newhall Tunnel through the ridge just west of Beale's Cut, the 1933 Weldon Canyon by-pass to the west, roughly along the alignment of today's I-5, and the elimination of the Newhall tunnel in 1939.

Continuing north from San Fernando Pass, Robinson includes two chapters on Tejon Pass. The first sorts out three different routes: the *Camino Viejo* carreta route through the Cuddy Valley and San Emigdio Canyon to the west, Fort Tejon Pass to the east, and the steep Arroyo El Tejon, still further east, which was the route of the original wagon road between Los Angeles and Stockton. The second of the Tejon Pass chapters is devoted to the highway era, including both the Ridge Route and the later highways located to the west, US 99 and Interstate 5. The Grapevine grade by which the highways descend from the pass to the Valley floor is included too.

Next is a single chapter about Tehachapi Pass. This includes a discussion of early stagecoach travel to the Kern River gold fields, and the Southern Pacific's route that looped and tunneled through the mountains to gain the railroad a lower gradient at the cost of a lot of curvature and extra miles. Aspects of the important long-haul wagon freight route between Los Angeles and the Owens Valley are mentioned in both the San Fernando Pass and Tehachapi chapters, since the advancing railhead changed the destinations of the freight wagons. A final chapter takes the reader south for an account of the development of rail and road access to San Diego from the east, including the plank auto road across the drifting sand dunes to Yuma and the dramatic early 20th century railroad across the steep peninsular ranges

through Carrizo Gorge. A one-page epilogue completes the book.

Lots of well-captioned maps and illustrations, both historical and current, complement the text. Robinson frequently quotes historical documents in the text, giving the reader a sense of immediacy. The index is thorough and the detailed bibliography is a valuable resource in itself. The result is encyclopedic, and the book is a reference work as well as a readable narrative. There is a certain amount of repetition in the text, but in a reference book this is a plus, for it saves the

reader from having to hunt through the text to gather relevant information. Glitches are few and minor. Robinson's offhand negative remarks about the Southern Pacific may lag behind current scholarship, but they are not central to the purpose of the book, which is to orient us to what went where, when, and why. In this he is eminently successful.

Shouldn't the reviewer make a critical comment somewhere? Well, the binding seems weak for a book that is likely to see a lot of use.

—Walt Bethel



Courtesy of Michael Patris

Two Trail Bosses busy at work during a recent Trail Boss meeting.