SPRING 2007 LOS ANGELES CORRAL NUMBER 248

The only known image of Fort Moore, this drawing by William Rich Hutton shows the fort shortly after its dedication. Hutton wrote on the drawing: "American Fort at Pueblo de Los Angeles, from Mr. Pryor's house—July 10, 1847." Courtesy of Henry E. Huntington Library, Manuscript Collection.

Los Angeles' Fort Moore: A Forgotten Chapter of the Mexican War

by Glenna Dunning

Fort Ticonderoga looms above Lake Champlain … Fort Laramie guards windswept plains … Fort Moore haunts the fast lane of the Hollywood Freeway. "Fort What? Where?" If you're not familiar with Fort Moore it's understandable because, even though it was the first American fort built in southern California, no trace of it exists today. It ultimately became victim to the growing city that it was built to protect. For some background about Fort Moore, let's start at the time of the Mexican War. Los Angeles had been California's capital since 1845 when Governor Pío Pico moved the government to a one-story adobe near the Plaza; California's army, under the command of General José Castro, remained at the Presidio of Monterey. On July 7, 1846, Commodore John Sloat of the Pacific Squadron anchored at Monterey and proclaimed that "henceforward California will

(Continued on page 3)

THE BRANDING IRON
The Westerners Los Angeles Corral
Published Quarterly in
Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter
OFFICERS 2007

TRAIL BOSSES

DEE DEE RUHLOW.....................................*Sheriff*
2705 No. Myers St., Burbank, CA 91504-2130

WILLIS OSBORNE............................*Deputy Sheriff*
934 E. Mountain View, Glendora, CA 91741

FROYLAN TISCAREÑO ....*Registrar of Marks & Brands*
3 Liquid Amber Irvine, CA 92620

TED DALTON..........................*Keeper of the Chips*
322 Blue Cavern Pt. Long Beach, CA 90803-6813

RONALD C. WOOLSEY.........*Publications Editor*
395 Cliff Dr. #100, Pasadena, CA 91107

THOMAS R. TEFFT.........*Assist. Publications Editor*
47719 Date Palm Court , Palm Desert, CA 92260

KENNETH E. PAULEY........*Past Sheriff Trail Boss*

PAUL RIPPENS....................*Past Sheriff Trail Boss*

APPOINTED OFFICERS

JOSEPH CAVALLO..........................*Wrangler Boss*

PATRICIA ADLER INGRAM...........*Membership*

LARRY BOERIO...............*Daguerreotype Wrangler*

ART COBERY..................*Magic Lantern Wrangler*

JAN PORTER.................*Roster/Sunshine Wrangler*

GARY TURNER........*Westerners International Rep*

WILLIAM DAVIS....................................*Librarian*

ERIC NELSON........................*Editor, Brand Book 23*

Address for Exchanges & Material Submitted for Publication:
The Publications Editor, Ronald C. Woolsey
395 Cliff Dr. #100, Pasadena, CA 91107

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 © 2006 by the Westerners Los Angeles Corral

Publication Layout by Katherine Tolford

EDITOR'S CORNER

We feel Glenna Dunning hit the nail on the head when she says, "Fort What?" Who among us ever heard of Fort Moore? Well, knowing Westerners as we do we are sure that some really have heard of Fort Moore. On the other hand, does it really matter? Glenna does a good job of setting the stage for the building of the fort but what happened to Andreas Pico, Kit Carson and Edward Fitzgerald Beale at the battle of San Pasqual? Does Hill Street have any connection with the hill upon which the fort was built? Is there any connection between Phillipi Gardens mentioned in the article and Phillippe's restaurant of today? These questions continue to bedevil us and keep us awake at night.

Tom Tefft
TRTefft@aol.com
38771 Nyasa Dr.
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Ron Woolsey
rcwoolsey@yahoo.com
395 Cliff Dr. #100,
Pasadena, CA 91107

be a portion of the United States." Assuming that Los Angeles would soon be invaded, Pico called for an army of volunteers but the inhabitants, apparently indifferent to the Mexican Government and unconcerned about the Americans, failed to rally to his cause.

On August 6, Commander Robert Stockton's forces landed at San Pedro with orders to seize the capital. Believing that Castro's army was advancing, Stockton organized his 400 sailors and marines and marched towards Los Angeles. Castro quickly offered a truce but, when it was rejected, he disbanded his army and fled to Mexico, soon followed by Governor Pico.

On August 13 the Americans marched into Los Angeles. Encountering no organized resistance, Stockton reported to Monterey that California was "entirely free from Mexican dominion." Several prominent citizens, including Captain José Flores and Andrés Pico (the Governor's brother), surrendered and were paroled upon their pledges not to bear arms. Stockton proclaimed California to be a territory of the United States, organized a civil and military administration (naming himself governor and commander-in-chief), and prepared to return to Monterey. He appointed Captain Archibald Gillespie as "Military Commander of the South," and then departed, leaving Gillespie to hold the pueblo of 1500 with 50 men.

Control rapidly crumbled when Gillespie, arrogant and stubborn, alienated the population with "pointless regulations, unreasonable curfew and arbitrary arrests." Resentment spread, Flores and other officers rebelled and, although Gillespie ordered arrests, an uprising spread throughout the region. In early September Gillespie not only heard reports of a planned attack on American sailors at San Pedro but also a rumor that, should Pío Pico return to Los Angeles, the rebels were ready to help him reclaim the government.

On the morning of September 23, a dozen Californios, filled "with patriotism and perhaps wine," charged the American garrison. During the brief skirmish two attackers were killed and the rest scattered but within hours a larger force attacked. The Americans responded by firing a small cannon using, as ammunition, nails and iron scrapings from the blacksmith shop. Again the Californios withdrew.

Robert F. Stockton (1795-1866) led the American forces into Los Angeles, capturing the capital of California during the Mexican War. He later named himself Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the new American territory. Courtesy of Security Pacific Collection, LAPL.

The following day, "from his armed camp in the City of Los Angeles," an undaunted Flores issued a proclamation signed by over 300 citizens. Translated, it read in part:

> *indignant against our tyrants, raise the cry of war.*

Flores offered terms of surrender but Gillespie refused, declaring that his military background "taught him to die at post rather than permit his country's arms to be disgraced." Seriously outnumbered, the beleaguered Americans scrambled up the hill overlooking the Plaza where they dug trenches and constructed earthen barriers. "Fort Hill" was a superior defensive position although it was feared that the water supply,

at the base of the hill, would be poisoned. Gillespie ordered John Brown (also known as "Juan Flaco") to ride to Monterey and obtain immediate aid from Stockton. Carrying messages written on cigarette papers, Brown slipped through enemy lines and began his perilous ride. Within hours news reached Gillespie that a group of Americans had been captured east of Los Angeles. He chose to surrender and accept terms that would allow him to march his men to San Pedro for embarkation on a ship that would take them north.

Even as he surrendered his hilltop position Gillespie responded with characteristic bravado. "We were ready to march," he reported, "every Rifle being in the best condition possible, our guns were carefully loaded, our Matches lit and everything prepared for action, each man determined to do his duty in the event of treachery upon the part of the Californians. We marched through the town … with flags flying." They arrived at San Pedro that evening and awaited instructions from Stockton.

After a grueling ride, Brown reached Commander Stockton and, within the week, reinforcements sailed to San Pedro. Joining Gillespie's forces, they marched inland to regain Los Angeles but, within a few miles, they encountered José Carrillo's forces, "well-mounted and equipped with a surprisingly effective cannon." Suffering casualties, the Americans again retreated to San Pedro.

In just two months the peaceful American conquest of the region had been lost and blame was quickly directed at Archibald Gillespie. Thomas O. Larkin, American consul at Monterey, wrote that "it appears even from the Americans that Captain G[illespie] punished, fined and imprisoned who and when he pleased without any hearing. I always told Commodore [Stockton] he should have granted the Mexican officers their request to be sent to Mexico. He would not then and his cheap way of conducting with Captain G[illespie]'s harshness has brought the country to its present pass."

Hoping to obtain supplies and additional troops, the Americans sailed for San Diego on October 30. There they met General Stephen Kearny and his army, just arrived from New Mexico after a long and exhausting march. The combined American force of about 600 men proceeding north, engaging the Californios in the Battle of San Pascual on December 5. The weary Americans were defeated in the bloody engagement, but it was a hollow victory for the Californios as growing dissension in their ranks was undermining their effectiveness.

On January 8, nearing Los Angeles, the Americans won a skirmish at the San Gabriel River and, later, at the so-called Battle of La Mesa where the enemy was scattered, clearing the way for the Americans to retake Los Angeles. A small delegation led by William Workman approached under a flag of truce and proposed the peaceful surrender of the Pueblo, provided "property and persons would be respected." This was agreed to and, on January 10, 1847, the Americans re-entered Los Angeles with flags flying and bands playing. As they marched towards the Plaza they were greeted with "many black looks and muttered threats." Nevertheless, Gillespie soon had the satisfaction of raising over the Plaza the same flag that he had lowered before his retreat from Los Angeles.

Three days later Frémont, reaching the San Fernando Valley, accepted the surrender of Flores' army. Although the "Capitulation of Cahuenga," dated January 13, extended full pardon to all rebels, Flores and many of his men fled to Mexico. Organized resistance to the American occupation had ended but, to make certain of a successful occupation, two hundred men and two artillery pieces were immediately moved to the top of Fort Hill.

Brevet-Major William Emory, a topographical engineer, was ordered to select a site for a permanent fort that could "contain 100 men and command the town and its principal approaches." Emory chose the site of Gillespie's earthworks on Fort Hill and plans were drawn of a substantial breastwork 400-feet long with a bastion for six cannon. It was not enclosed and, although it could easily be defended against a frontal attack, its unprotected, open side was vulnerable to attack. Perhaps based on the assumption that no enemy could scale the

In the summer of 1849, Lt. Edward Ord made the first detailed map of Los Angeles; this survey shows the location of Fort Moore, situated on a hill overlooking the Plaza. The outline of the fort has been enhanced by the author.

steep hill to the west, it was a curious design which, nevertheless, was approved.

On January 12, Stockton ordered his men to start digging a line of trenches on the brow of the hill, constructing earthen walls. In his diary, Seaman Joseph Downey grumbled about orders to "commence the foundations of a Star Fort … [an] arrangement the jacks kicked strongly against." But soon Downey and the rest of Stockton's men returned to San Pedro and command of Los Angeles passed to Colonel George Cooke who had arrived with the Mormon Battalion.

Cooke was greeted by rumors that the Mexican Congress had appropriated $600,000 for the retaking of California and that 1500 men were advancing on the region. Sergeant Daniel Tyler, of the Mormon Battalion, recalled that "there were various rumors afloat about an expected attack from the Spaniards and Indians. Colonel Cooke directed our officers … to have the Battalion ready to form a line of battle, at a moment's notice, with loaded guns and fixed bayonets. We were up most of the following night, owing to the Colonel believing we would at attacked. The enemy did not appear, however." Tyler boasted that "our position on the hill commanded Los Angeles, [and] our artillery would have played to good advantage." On April 24, Cooke ordered work resumed on Fort Hill. "The whole company will be employed in the diligent prosecution of the labors" with twenty-eight men from each of the four companies "digging and mixing adobe mud in a ditch … to surround the earthen redoubt." Private Henry Standage's diary revealed that he and his fellow soldiers "found it tedious to stand guard at night and then to work on the fort 10 hours, parade at retreat … and do our own cooking." Lt. James Pace recorded that he made certain "the Battalion [was] Engaged in forifying Tho nothing definet or sertain of war with the Spanyard… The soldiers continued to work on the Fort [though] nothing transpiard verry special."

By July 1 the fort was sufficiently complete that Colonel Stevenson decided to dedicate it, and issued an order that, at sunrise on July 4th, the American flag would be raised. Private H. H. Toye recalled that "all the Troops were present when at Sunrise for the first time the American Flag was displayed…. it was hailed by nine deafening cheers by the surrounding Soldiery when the Band … struck up the Star Spangled Banner, followed by a Salute fired by the 1d

Los Angeles' Plaza in the 1870s. The church is the old Church of Our Lady Queen of the Angels, built between 1818 and 1822, and present when Fort Moore was constructed on the hill in the background during the Mexican War. Courtesy Security Pacific Collection/Los Angeles Public Library.

U.S. Dragoons which closed the proceedings for the morning." A few hours later "the Soldiers again marched to the Fortification … when it was named and dedicated by Col. Stevenson … in which he mentioned the gallant conduct on the field of San Pas Qual [sic] of Capt. Benjamin Moore after whom he named the Fort…. a National Salute was fired and the Soldiers were marched off the ground to the air of Hail Columbia, and so ended the public ceremonies of the day." Shortly after the dedication most soldiers in the Mormon Battalion were mustered out of service and left Los Angeles.

Though Fort Moore remained unfinished, several hundred men were there in 1847 and 1848. It was generally peaceful duty although, on the night of December 7, 1847, a nervous sentry "failed to extract the password from a passing cow." In the rush to arms a lighted fuse was dropped into an ammunition chest causing an explosion that killed several soldiers.

After the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed in February 1848, ending the war between the United States and Mexico, Fort Moore was abandoned as a military post. Though empty, its physical presence still commanded the town. In 1849, Lt. Edward Ord was hired by the City Council to make an official survey of the town. Ord's map, the first detailed plan of Los Angeles, clearly shows the position of the fort over the Plaza. Four years later the United States War Department recommended formally abandoning Fort Moore "as unworthy of further maintenance."

The fort quickly fell into ruins but the hill became home to the community gallows. In 1857, more than 3,000 people watched vigilantes lynch Juan Flores, murderer of Sheriff James R. Barton and three of his posse. It was reported that "dozens of outlaws and cutthroats" met their end on the hill; appropriately, Fort Hill Cemetery, the first non-sectarian cemetery in Los Angeles, was nearby.

By the 1870s, property values rose and Fort Moore Hill, like neighboring Bunker Hill, became a choice residential section, "sprouting mansions at a great rate." It also sprouted the Phillipi Gardens, a spacious saloon "surrounded by pleasant outdoor facilities." Opening in 1879, it was a popular local attraction, "companion to the graveyard" and to the ruins of Fort Moore. Mrs. Phineas Banning purchased the saloon and remodeled it into her residence that, for many years, was a magnet for Los Angeles' high society. A photograph taken in 1883 shows the Banning residence adjacent to a portion of the fort's remaining walls.

Central High School was built on the hill in 1887 and, in order to make room for buildings and playgrounds, the old cemetery was removed. Numerous bodies were disinterred including "the well-preserved remains of a huge man …attired in buckskin coat and trousers with miner's hip boots," his white hat covering several bullet holes in his skull.

The physical remains of Fort

In 1879, a large and popular saloon, the Phillipi Gardens, was built on top of Fort Moore Hill; it later became the elegant home of Mrs. Phineas Banning. To the left of this 1883 photograph, near the curving road, are the remains of the old fort's walls. Courtesy Security Pacific Collection/Los Angeles Public Library..

Moore had disappeared by the early twentieth-century and memories of the old fort probably would have been forgotten if not for an unlikely gold rush. In March 1933, urban prospectors Rex McCreery and Ray Martin, possessing an old (and questionable) sheepskin map, declared that there were catacombs under the site of Fort Moore filled with bullion and old Spanish doubloons. Supporting their claim was C. Warren Shufelt, inventor of a "radio gold-finding machine" that could locate the tunnels. County supervisors approved the exploration (provided the County received half of anything found) but within days it was apparent that Shufelt's "radio device" failed to locate any treasure. The explorers "wound up with little more than rivulets of sweat dripping from their brows" and the County wound up with 230,000 cubic yards of dirt shoveled out of the hill. In November 1933 a use was found for this dirt during construction of Union Station, the city's new rail station. Later, when more earth was required, "a huge section of historic, romantic, once ultra-fashionable Fort Moore Hill" was bulldozed. Disappearance of the eastern part of the hill was hastened when Spring Street was extended; by 1950, construction for the Hollywood Freeway had completely obliterated the former site of the fort.

However, not all was forgotten and, on July 13, 1953, the Fort Moore Pioneer Memorial Wall was dedicated on Hill Street just north of the Hollywood Freeway. Appropriately, the 400-foot length of the Memorial matches that of Emory's original fort. The city's first Independence Day was also celebrated by descendants of those American soldiers "who hoisted their Flag and saluted it with 13 guns on July 4, 1847."

Bancroft, Hubert Howe. *The Works of Hubert Howe Bancroft*. Vol. XXII: "History of California, v. 5. 1846-1849." San Francisco: The History Company, Publishers, 1886.

Sonora Town, north of the Old Plaza in Los Angeles. Photograph, taken about 1869 from Fort Moore Hill, shows a portion of the old fort's walls on the lower left. Courtesy Security Pacific Collection, Los Angeles Public Library..

Suggested Reading

Bauer, K. Jack. *The Mexican War, 1846-1848*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1992.

Bigler, David L. and Will Bagley, eds. *Army of Israel: Mormon Battalion Narratives*. Spokane, WA: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 2000.

Bowman, Lynn. *Los Angeles: Epic of a City*. Berkeley, CA: Howell-North Books, c1974

Carey, Charles W., Jr. *The Mexican War;* "Mr. Polk's War". Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, Inc., 2002.

Clarke, Dwight L. *Stephen Watts Kearny, Soldier of the West.* Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1961.

Hollingsworth, John McHenry. *The Journal of Lieutenant John McHenry Hollingsworth Of the First New York Volunteers (Stevenson's Regiment), September 1846- August 1849*. San Francisco: California Historical Society, 1923.

Poole, Jean Bruce and Tevvy Ball. *El Pueblo: the Historic Heart of Los Angeles.* Los Angeles: The Getty Conservation Institute and the J. Paul Getty Museum, c2002.

Ricketts, Norma Baldwin. *The Mormon Battalion: U.S. Army of the West, 1846-1848.* Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 1996.

Stockton, Robert F. *A Sketch of the Life of Com. Robert F. Stockton.* New York: Derby & Jackson, 1856.

Jean-Nicolas Perlot Learns to be a Miner

by Abraham Hoffman

On April 7, 1851, a French ship anchored in Monterey harbor and unloaded 72 passengers, including 45 members of La Fortuna, a gold-seeking company formed in Paris. One of the members of this group was Jean-Nicolas Perlot, a young man hoping to find his fortune in the gold fields. The youngest son of a Belgian businessman, Perlot had faced a major crisis when his father died in 1845. He did not get along well with his oldest brother, and family difficulties helped him decide to go to Paris to find work. Economic problems in that city made his life no better, and so the news from California (wherever that was) of gold for the taking prompted Perlot's decision to join the La Fortuna company.

Unfortunately for Perlot and his companions, no sooner had they arrived in California when they learned that the La Fortuna company was bankrupt. The French consul at Monterey advised the men to forget about gold and get into farming, where there was more money to be made. Perlot ignored this advice. He joined a new company and spent the next six years in the California gold fields, moving from one mining camp to another. His optimism was equal to the obstacles he faced. He and his companions spoke neither English nor Spanish, a problem that made things difficult when asking directions. However, by 1857 Perlot had made enough money in the gold fields to invest in a mortgage company. In that year he went to Oregon and prospered in the nursery and landscaping business. Where gold had mostly eluded him, he did succeed in other economic endeavors. On a visit to Belgium in 1867 he married Victorine Gaupin, and a decade later he returned to Belgium for good, raising a family and growing vegetables. He died in 1901 at age 77.

Perlot's experiences in the California gold fieds were the subject of the many stories he told his children and grandchildren. But Perlot did something more. Late in life he wrote the stories down, and his book was published under the title *Vie et aventures d'un enfant de l'Ardenne*. Unknown in the United States for more than sixty years, Perlot's adventures did not appear in English until 1985. He told of his experiences without any false modesty, and his eyewitness descriptions of life in the gold fields are both vivid and fascinating. Here is an example of Perlot's arrival at the gold-mining camp of Hornitos:

"Hornitos was a camp of thirty to thirty-five tents, all occupied by sellers of food, tools, and clothes; there was a butcher-shop, a bakery, besides a sort of inn. Meat was sold at twenty-five sous an English pound, which is fourteen ounces, bread thirty more. After having bought for our supper thirty-five francs worth of meat, bread, and grease, we set up our tent for the night.

"All around Hornitos, in the creeks, in the gulches, we saw nothing but people occupied in seeing this precious metal. We watched them do it, while waiting to imitate them; many of them had only two or three feet of digging and, coming near the rock, washed the dirt at the bottom and found gold there; others had holes ten to twelve feet deep; they threw the water out of the bottom, if they found any there, broke up the earth in it, and washed it at the creek nearby.

"In the evening, the work of the mines ended, there were many people in the camp; one came to buy supplies, another clothes, another tools: picks, shovels, crowbars, and pans. I estimate that there could have been at Hornitos from two hundred and fifty to three hundred persons, all men in the prime of life: I saw no women there, nor children, nor old people. In business, they spoke English and Spanish; in the street…we heard all possible tongues spoken; we encountered there even the Indian, all flurried and much distressed because he was dressed, dressed in the sense that he had on either an old shirt, or old trousers, or an old coat or even simply a vest, sometimes only a hart; I have

never seen one wearing two of these objects at a time.

We slept little that night. Although we dispensed with a guard, we were restless; we didn't have a very clear idea of what work in the mines was, and we were wondering how we would manage."

Excerpt from *Jean-Nicolas Perlot, Gold Seeker: Adventures of a Belgian Argonaut during the Gold Rush Years*, translated by Helen Harding Bretnor, edited by Howard R. Lamar. Yale University Press, 1985, p. 95.

Spurs

by Jd Seibert

These ol' spurs of mine
Have lost their shine
And the glory that they had
I was ten years old
So, the story is told
When I got 'em from my Dad

Now, the truth be known
I weren't full grown
I was a youngin' shy and coy
But when I heard those rowels ring
I was sure of one thing
I was destined to be a cowboy

I was taught to use care
To mind hide and hair
And to never poke or rake
It didn't need much
Just a slow gentle touch
Was often all it would take

Whenever I'd ride
I'd wear 'em with pride
Just a hangin' from my heel
I'd squeeze to collect
To drive and direct
And try to apply them with feel

They're sprinkled with dust
And tarnished with rust
And they may have lost their shine
But every cowboy knows
How the old saying goes
"Good tack, ages like wine"

Sloppin' Hogs!

by Loren Wendt

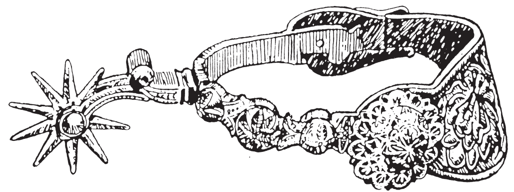
Well, Folks, I just gotta tell ya
Sloppin' hogs ain't a lot of fun
N; I ain't never figgered out
Why I wuz the chosen one

I'd mix up that smelly sour mash
In one bucket, sometimes even two
Then I'd head for that old pig-pen
Knowin' exactly whut I had to do

I'd pour that sorry stinkin' mess
Into that wooden trough real quick
While them squeanlin' pink-hued porkers
Almost made this poor child sick

Then Pappy'd take down the long gun
And end one of them porkers squeals
N' soon I'd be lookin' forward
To some really durn good meals

Bacon, ham and sausage in the smoke-house
N' all them tasty ribs we've had
When I got to thinkin' bout it
Mebbe sloppin' hogs ain't all that bad!



Photograph by Larry Boerio

Ken Veronda, December Meeting Speaker

December Meeting

Ken Veronda is a longtime resident of southern California and graduated from Stanford University with a degree in political and immigration history. He has served for many years in a diplomatic post for the foreign service and recently he has returned to his passion of teaching and serving as a headmaster at Southwestern Academy, a San Marino boarding school.

Ken took corral members back to 1923 by crafting a vivid description of life in southern California during that era. It was a time to travel on a Big Red Car, while perhaps reading a *Los Angeles Times* article featuring the daring exploits of woman aviator Florence Lowe "Pancho" Barnes, or the arrival of a new dirigible and an upcoming aerodrome show in Glendale. Of course, you could buy a map from the Automobile Club and plan a weekend excursion along the Ridge Route, or drive south over the wooden plank roads leading to Arizona for the more daring traveler.

Pasadena emerged as cultural center for dancing, fine dining and elegant hotels such as the Raymond and Huntington hotels. You could visit Vroman's bookstore for your reading leisure, including the new publication sensation, *Time* magazine. All this against the majestic backdrop of the San Gabriel Mountains and the Mt. Lowe Railway. It was a period when you could go to a theater and see a silent movie while a Wurlitzer organist played George M. Cohan, Irving Berlin and George Gershwin tunes for your entertainment at intermission. Ken noted it was a time for "dry towns" as Prohibition cast a dark shadow over all social activity.

Of course, the era was marked by a sprawling Los Angeles metropolis, and suburban cities such as Alhambra and San Marino were vigilant against any annexation move by their larger neighbor. The Ku Klux Klan gained marginal support in southern California, cloaking much of their prejudice in patriotic calls for a return to the Anglo-American way. In fact, a KKK member was elected mayor of Anaheim during this era, mostly in reaction to growing nativist sentiment.

Ken also touched on notable personalities such as the colorful Charles Lummis, anti-suffragist George S. Stoneman, astronomer George Ellery Hale, oil magnate Edward Lawrence Doheny, and a rising military star George Patton. It was a pleasant "walk down memory lane" for a few corral members, and a rich insight into a distant time gone by for most others.

Photograph by Larry Boerio

Sven Crongeyer, January Meeting Speaker

January Meeting

Sven Crongeyer works for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, enjoys hiking and fishing, and is an avid student of

Western history. He earned his degrees from Cal State University Northridge and Cal State University Long Beach. Sven has participated through law enforcement in epic events in recent southern California history, including the 1992 Los Angeles riots and the Northridge earthquake. He is author of a new publication, *Six Gun Sound: The Early History of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*.

Sven discussed the tumultuous frontier years in Los Angeles. He discussed the lawlessness that existed during the Gold Rush era. He retold the story of James Barton and Juan Flores. In 1857, James Barton and his deputies were ambushed by the Flores gang near San Juan Capistrano. Tensions existed between the American and Mexican populations during this period as rancheros suffered economic hard times and land title disputes, and nativist sentiment often translated into anti-Mexican sentiment. In addition, the lawlessness of the era created apprehension. Local courts and police overwhelmed by the rapid population influx from the California gold rush. Thus, the death of Barton elicited a quick response from the local populace.

Vigilante groups were formed in El Monte and surrounding communities, troops from Fort Tejon were alerted and Flores and his gang were apprehended within weeks. Juan Flores was hanged at Los Angeles in February, 1857.

Crongeyer's book profiles the frontier-style lawmen hired to stop the initial mayhem to an analysis of the city's modern sheriff's office. His research draws comparisons between the uproar of the early days, the racial tensions that erupted during the Watts riots, and the safety issues that preoccupy the police force today.

February Meeting

Nicolas S. Witschi is the 2007 Los Angeles Westerners recipient of the Huntington Library fellowship. He teaches English at Western Michigan University and is author of articles on Jane Austin, Mark Twain, John Muir, Willa Cather, Sinclair Lewis and Raymond Chandler. His recent book publication, *Traces of Gold*, posits the argument for reading the history of literary realism in the American West as a figurative engagement with the material, economic and cultural value of natural resource industries.

Photograph by Larry Boerio

Nicolas Witschi, February Meeting Speaker

Professor Witschi has recently worked at the Huntington Library on the autobiographical writings of early twentieth century gunslingers. He noted the importance of autobiography in highlighting regional characteristics of the "Wild West." The autobiographical stories of Mark Twain, William Cody and Charlie Seringo profiled the character of bandits, lawmen and vigilantes. These colorful and romanticized accounts formed the basis of our American "psyche" regarding the "Wild West."

Jesse James and Harry Longabaugh (Sundance Kid) used several newspapers to shape a popular view of themselves and their circumstances. Both men professed their innocence in several alleged robberies, and they wrote unsolicited letters to journal and newspaper editors in order to make their case.

Witschi noted that newspaper accounts were often faked, embellished, and romanticized for a hungry readership wanting more colorful accounts of daring robberies and shootouts. The Wild West was often shaped by the pen more than bullets. He noted that Calamity Jane complained about her roman-

ticized and often fictional portrayal by many writers.

Yet many cowboys, outlaws and lawmen actually embraced the idealized view of the West in their own portrayals. In an essay, Theodore Roosevelt styled himself as a rough man of the West. Wyatt Earp disdained the false notoriety but often embraced the lore in his own account of those violent days chasing Arizona outlaws and the shootout at OK Corral.

Biography had power to shape America's view of themselves and their world. These enduring views of the American frontier continue today in film and print. Alas, the message of Professor Witschi may well have been that myth mixed with a little reality makes good lore, but poor history.

Photograph by Larry Boerio

Michelle Zack, March Meeting Speaker

March Meeting

Michelle Zack is author of a 2004 publication, *Altadena: Between Wilderness and City*. Her work is a social history of one town that illuminates state and national history. Her story, *Eaton's Water*, was made into a film by the Art Center College of Design and was used by Pasadena area schools as part of a watershed education curriculum. She has an extensive background as a writer and journalist. Michelle lived in Thailand and California during the 1990s and was *Asia Week's* correspondent and a regular contributor to the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. She wrote a popular ethnography of a wandering hill tribe in southeast Asia and is a guest lecturer at USC's Marshall School of Business on culture and business in southeast Asia. Ms. Zack has also worked as a speechwriter for more than one Thai Prime Minister.

Michelle discussed the early history of Pasadena as a western town in the traditions of the early frontier. She touched on the vaqueros that roamed the foothills during the rancho days of the mid-nineteenth century. It was a rural locale with lawlessness, new migrants, and a spirit of manifest destiny that fueled the westward movement. Michelle displayed several slides of the Arroyo Seco, the rise of citrus and viticulture, Benjamin Eaton's efforts to bring water to the region, and the land boom that fueled real estate speculation during the late-nineteenth century. She contrasted maps of the era that showed the rapid development of the region by 1900.

Michelle presented the film, *Eaton's Water*, used for middle school students to learn about the people and events that shaped Pasadena in those early years.

All Westerners (i.e. including Donald Duke) had to pay attention, otherwise Michelle would have them take a short quiz after the film.

Photograph by Larry Boerio

Thomas Andrews, April Meeting Speaker

April Meeting

Thomas Andrews is a recipient of a 2006 Los Angeles Westerners research grant at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage. He spoke on his recent findings concerning the Ludlow Massacre and an upcoming book publication scheduled for later this year.

The Ludlow Massacre took place in Colorado on April 20, 1914, during a Greek Easter celebration. Twenty men, women and children died that day when militia fired into a tent camp of striking miners. The camp was intentionally set ablaze and scores of miners were arrested. Tensions between the United Mine Workers and the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company had been accelerating for weeks. Issues dividing the union and management included wages, benefits and working conditions. A strike was met with a lockout and eviction from the company mining town. Miners, in turn, organized a tent colony on public land near the mines, and the mining companies then hired detectives and company thugs to protect the mines.

Andrews noted that the Ludlow Massacre was the most violent labor conflict in American history. The immediate cause of the conflict and ensuing camp fire is unknown, but violence had been evident for weeks. Nearly thirty people were killed in the first month of the miners' strike. More importantly, the strike was a microcosm of a larger struggle between business and labor that had unfolded for several decades.

Thomas Andrews shared his fascination with the strike as part of the American West. He felt the Ludlow Massacre was a bridge between an old and new West, the frontier and settlement. The mining boom fueled new technology, population movement and the growth of an Industrial America expanding westward. The new West was tied to the rise of an industrial society that was dependent on coal mining.

Research for his study was based upon newspapers, book and primary collections found in the Colorado and New Mexico archives, including the writings of Denver bookseller Fred Rosenstock located at the Autry research facility.

Bathin' Time

By Jd Seibert

Now, bathin' time fer cowboys
Comes but twice a year
Though tain't exactly frequent
Its purpose is quite clear

Its to shed the dust and dirt
That cowboys tend to find
And to do a bit of laundry
To relax and to unwind

We was all a bit reluctant
Fer the pond looked mighty cold
But we couldn't stand our stench
Fer the smell was gettin' bold

We all tested the water first
By dippin' in our toes
Then made sure no one was lookin'
While we went and shed our clothes

Everyone was a bit hesitant
To jump in and take a dip
But I worked me up some courage
And ran and did a flip

The crew then followed suit
And jumped in with nothin' on
Slim he did him a pencil dive
Just as graceful as a swan

Now I know it sounds questionable
Just between you and me
But I assure you that cowboys
Are quite secure in their masculinity

We finished up our laundry
And we hung it up to dry
Then we all got us a suntan
Beneath the clear blue sky

When who should come down the rode
With a wagon fully filled
But the dog-gone rotary club
And the women's crocheting guild

To tell ya all the truth
I ain't been so embarrassed in my life
And to make things a little worse
They was driven by the preacher's wife

We all scurried up the bank
Like a streak all fresh and clean
But a barrage of women's laughter
Announced that we'd been seen

Most of the fellas tried to hide
Their bare bodies in disgrace
But as for me myself and I
I covered nothin' but my face

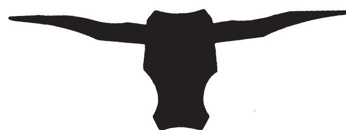
That Durned Ole' Bull!

by Loren Wendt

If this ole' cowpoke had any kind of sense
He'd have started earlier for yonder fence
Cuz here I wuz a-runnin' and a'hollerin'
N' that bull was a-snortin' and a-follerin'

I cleared three strands of barbed wire
Shucks, I coulda gone even higher
That durned ole bull slammed into that post
N' don't know which of us was hurtin' most

Well, folks, there's somethin' you should know
That durned ole' bull put on quite a show
And there's one thing for dad-gummed sure
This cowpoke just ain't goin' back for more !



Corral Chips

Congratulations to **PHYLLIS HANSEN** and **GREGORY MCREYNOLDS** who last September walked the 9-mile Los Pobladores route from San Gabriel Mission to the Pueblo of Los Angeles in commemoration of the 225th birthday of Los Angeles.

Last January, **ART COBERY** gave a stirring lecture on the "Flood History of California" at the Sunland-Tujunga Library. His presentation focused on the deluge that struck La Crescenta on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1933.

The corral wishes the best for **MICHAEL TORGUSON**, who married Laura Geyer last summer. The ceremony was held at the home of Michael's parents --Ranger Active member **DON TORGUSON** and his wife Eleanor. The newlyweds spent part of their 8-day Hawaiian island honeymoon doing research on the snakes of Hawaii. Fortunately, their were no "snakes on the plane" during their return trip!

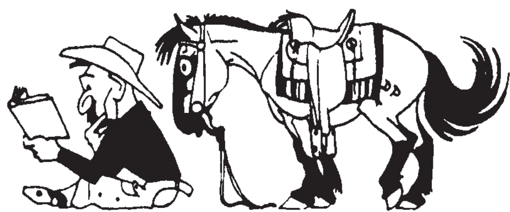
Professor **GORDON BAKKEN** is as prolific as ever. He recently co-edited an exhaustive two-volume resource entitled, *Encyclopedia of Immigration and Migration in the American West*.

Bravo to **ABE HOFFMAN**, who had two new articles published this past spring. "The Zanzas and the Pioneer Water Systems for Los Angeles," co-authored with Teena Stern, was published in the *Southern California Quarterly*, and "Boiler Plate: Jewish articles in the Frontier Press," was published in the *Western States Jewish History*.

The corral expresses its regret on the passing of longtime member, **JIM GULBRANSON**. Jim was sheriff in 1987 and passed away on June 5, 2007, following a long and courageous battle with cancer. History and art were two of Jim's most avid interests. He collected pottery and baskets of Southwestern Indian tribes. He was also active in several historical societies instrumental in the preservation of several important historical sites in the San Fernando Valley. He co-chaired the Lopez Adobe Preservation Committee and headed the restoration committee for the Andres Pico Adobe in Mission Hills.

MONSIGNOR FRANCIS WEBER has expanded the library collection at the Archival Center located at the San Fernando Mission. The center for the Los Angeles Archdiocese now includes a valuable typescript of newspaper articles compiled from various sources about the history of the Catholic Church in Pomona from 1771-1840. There is also an interesting section located at the convento wing of the mission that highlights the 1842 gold discovery at San Fernando.

Our best wishes go to **LOREN WENDT**, who recently was diagnosed with macular degeneration. Loren has graciously offered his poetry for publication in *The Branding Iron* during our tenure as editors. He has promised to write poetry for as long as possible and continue to send them our way.



DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL . . .

JOHN FRANK STEVENS: AMERICAN TRAILBLAZER by Odin Baugh. Spokane: The Arthur H. Clark Company 2005. Illustrations, Maps. Index, Bibliography. 251 pp. Cloth $32.50. Order from Arthur H. Clark Company, Attn: Order Department, 2800 Venture Drive, Norman, OK 73069-8218.

John Frank Stevens was a self-taught civil engineer learning much of his extraordinary skills on the job and exercising his keen mind on difficult engineering and human problems. Stevens gave up teaching to work on railroads. From railroads, he moved on to the Panama Canal and the Russian railroads during revolution and diplomatic intrigue. Recognized for his genius by his professional peers, presidents appointed him to high office and allowed underlings to congratulate him for his contributions. This biography tells the incredible life and a forgotten engineering transcendent intellectual.

Stevens started as an assistant engineer of location for the Canadian Pacific in 1883. He rose to construction engineer. In 1889 James J. Hill hired him on with the Great Northern Railroad where he distinguished himself for his discovery of Marias Pass in Montana. The next year he was in the Cascades where he discovered Stevens Pass over that mountain chain. In 1895, he won the position of chief engineer for the Great Northern Railroad. In 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt handed him the Panama Canal and he guided the planning, transportation, construction, and logistics of the greatest civil engineering project of the century. He left the helm and George W. Goethals took the reigns and most of the fame. Only the civil engineer world knew that Sevens was the genius who made the canal possible.

Stevens returned to railroading with Hill's Oregon Trunk Line and engaged Edward Harriman's Northern Pacific Railroad in a construction race down the Deschutes River Canyon. Rivalry gave way to compromise in the end, but again Stevens enabled amazing engineering accomplishments without substantial recognition.

President Woodrow Wilson facing the Great War and wanting a Russian role. In 1917 the President appointed Stevens to the Russian Railroad Commission to develop improvement plans for the trans-Siberian railroad. In 1919 Stevens won another presidential appointment to President of the Inter-Allied Technical Board to oversee Russian railroads in the east. He continued in that post until 1922. Neither President Wilson nor Harding thanked him for his sacrifice and extraordinary service. However, in 1923 the American Society of Civil Engineers elected him an honorary member limited to fifteen of its eleven thousand members. Other accolades followed including the U.S. Distinguished Service Medal, the French Legion of Honor, the Czech Military Cross, the Chinese orders of Chia-Ho and Wen-Hu, and the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun.

Other honors followed, but perhaps the most significant is this book honoring a civil engineer who deserves to be remembered.

—Gordon Morris Bakken

TRAILS AND TALES OF THE CAJON PASS; FROM INDIAN FOOTPATH TO MODERN HISTORY by John and Sandy Hockaday (Etiwanda, CA: Buckthorn Publishing, 2006). 461 pp., illustrations, maps, bibliography, index.

Cajon Pass, wedged between the San Gabriel and San Bernadino mountains, is a vital gateway into southern California. Today's drivers, cruising along Interstate 15, are over the pass in minutes, with little time to contemplate the difficulties faced by early travelers. In centuries gone by, history has swirled over the Cajon like the Santa Ana

Winds that often blow through.

Over the pass, through one of its several notches, rode Captain Pedro Fages and his small force of leather-jacket-soldiers in 1772, followed by the Franciscan missionary-explorer Francisco Garces four years later. The Old Spanish Trail traversed the Cajon from 1829 to 1848, followed by the Salt Lake-Los Angeles Wagon Road, John Brown's turnpike, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, the National Old Trails Road, famous Route 66, and today's Interstate.

John Hockaday and his late wife Sandy long ago became enthralled in the saga of Cajon Pass. John once heard an old man say that you could stick a shovel just about any place in the pass and it would bleed history. John, who has covered every square foot of the Cajon area, and Sandy, who spent days, weeks, months in the San Bernardino. County Archives, proved this to be true. Together, they have produced what certainly is the definitive history, the "bible" for those desiring to learn about, the trails, roads, railroads, and settlers of the Cajon.

The Hockadays start with a general description of the Cajon Pass area, followed by chapters on early trails, homesteading, freighting over the pass, settlements such as Glen Helens and Devore, water rights, and Camp Cajon. These chapters are followed by the "meat" of the book, the year-by-year annals of those who traveled through or settled in the Cajon, from Indian days to 1994. Numerous photographs, drawings, maps and diagrams greatly enhance these chapters. Also included are genealogies of some of the major settlers, and poetry by J.C. Davis, the "Poet of the Pass."

Anyone with an interest in the saga of Cajon Pass will find this large-format volume extremely valuable and informative. John and Sandy Hockaday have truly produced the complete, definitive history of this major gateway into Southern California.

Trails and Tales of the Cajon Pass can be purchased from Buckhorn Publishing, P.O. Box 393, Etiwanda, CA 91739. Cost, which includes shipping is $46.15 for California residents, $43.05 for those out of state.

—John Robinson

CHICANOS IN A CHANGING SOCIETY by Albert Camarillo Originally published in 1979, it was reprinted in 2005 by the First Southern Methodist University Press, with new Foreword by John Chavez and Afterword by Albert Jaramillo.

This ground-breaking work is the result of research Camarillo did for his PhD dissertation at U.C.L.A. in 1975. In the words of John Chavez, work on this subject in the 1970s tended to be "superficial and polemical." Several serious studies reached similar conclusions but needed case studies to validate their sweeping and sometimes conflicting claims.

Camarillo's work lays the groundwork for his conclusions with tables, such as "Relative Worth of the Spanish-surnamed and Non-Spanish-surnamed property-owning populations in Santa Barbara, 1853." "Occupational structure for the total Spanish-surnamed male head-of-household population of Santa Barbara, 1860." "Total Chicano, white, and non-white populations in selected Southern California cities, 1860-1890."

The author uses these tables to anchor his arguments depicting the shrinking role of the Spanish-surnamed population in practically all aspects of life in Santa Barbara and other Southern California locations. The numbers reflect the cultural pressures that the Spanish-surnamed population was experiencing and the often strained reaction that occurred in adapting to the "foreign" ways of the *yanqui* conquerors. It doesn't take rocket science to trace the stagnant numbers throughout the selected occupation categories in the decades from the 1860s to the early 1900s. Spanish-surnamed residents almost invariably occupied the lowest levels of employment. Even the land-owning ranchers saw their economic position collapse due to natural disasters (i.e. drought) but also because of predatory practices of *yanqui* real-estate attorneys. The farmers' political clout likewise shrank when the influx of *yanquis* took control, gerrymandering districts and electing officials favoring their causes. This bleak picture of the Spanish-

surnamed is mitigated to some extent by the spiritual comfort derived from their Catholic faith. Camarillo points out the persistence of celebrating holy days with colorful fiestas which the *yanqui* newcomers sometimes viewed with disdain. Unfortunately, the Catholic church could do little to improve their flock's temporal condition. Having been despoiled of most of its lands during the Mexican secularization of the missions, the Church had yet to recover to a level that afforded it a modicum of dignity.

In summary, this book is recommended to anyone who is interested in learning about the declining position of the Spanish-surnamed residents of southern California in almost all aspects of social life in the decades of 1850-1930. Ample notes and a good bibliography supplement the text.

— Froylán Tiscareño

BETTERAVIA: MEMORIES OF A MODERN

CALIFORNIA GHOST TOWN, by Hal Madson. Np: np, 2006. 113 pp. Maps, charts, photographs, endnotes, bibliography, index. ISBN 1-4276-0227-1. Hardcover, $29.95. Order from Hal Madson, PO Box 6512, Santa Maria, CA 93456.

The Union Sugar Company built the town of Betteravia west of Santa Maria in 1900 to house workers employed at its adjoining beet sugar refinery. Population peaked at over 350 people housed in about 65 neat bungalows. Schools, a filling station, a well-stocked general store and post office, a non-denominational church, a dance hall, a men's club house, and a sixty-room hotel provided some urban amenities, and an extensive natural lake offered recreation as well as mosquitoes.

By the 1960s most workers preferred to commute from Santa Maria, and maintaining the town became an economic burden. The company had dismantled it by 1970. The refinery finally shut down in 1993, too outdated to operate profitably.

Virtually nothing of the town's physical structure remains. What does remain are living memories, and Madson uses interviews with people who resided or worked in Betteravia to give the reader a sense of immediacy and participation in a small town's day-to-day activities.

Madson puts Betteravia and the refinery into the changing patterns of settlement, transportation development, and economic activity in the Santa Maria Valley. He provides fascinating agricultural and industrial photographs, descriptions and charts of sugar beet cultivation, harvesting, transportation, and processing, and shows how the refinery stimulated other industries: the beet pulp discarded in the refining process was used to fatten animals brought to adjacent feedlots, and lime was quarried in nearby Lompoc for use in purifying the sugar.

An appendix reproduces a variety of charts, maps and documents about the sugar industry and about the possibility of restoring a portion of Lake Guadalupe, which was polluted by the refinery then drained for farmland after WWII. Here one might wish that Madson had given us more analysis of the materials: what do the charts of groundwater and rainfall supposed to show us about reviving the lake, anyway? The old city directories that he reproduces for us are a delight.

Scholarly documentation is thin, but the book is well-organized and packed with information, and its crisp, clear images repay close study. It breaks new ground exploring a fascinating subject thoroughly, and it is a good read.

—Walt Bethel

WESTERN MINING by Otis E. Young, Jr.,

University of Oklahoma Press: Norman, 1970, ISBN 0-8061-1352-9 paper, 342 pages, illustrations, schematics, glossary, bibliography, index.

This is a wonderful book presenting by word and illustration a broad outline of the methods by which gold and silver were extracted from the earth of the old west from Spanish times until 1893, a real assistance to the reader in the understanding of unfamiliar technical terms, used in Cornwall, England

and in Mexico, is an extensive glossary which is illuminating and worth study in itself. The author does not treat with the great industrial minerals of today, salt, sulphur, limestone, coal, petroleum and iron ores. Instead, he focuses on extraction techniques of non-ferrous mineralization with particular reference to gold, silver, mercury, copper and lead.

Many readers familiar with the secretive solo miners of the 1840's and 1850's who were displaced when massive capital infused the mining country and brought in machinery, including the monitors which washed entire hillsides capturing golden fled which were hidden in ancient stream bottoms. However, many readers are not acquainted with the ancient mining methods used as recently 150 years ago. Jason (and the Tale of the Golden Fleece) captured placer gold by anchoring raw sheep fleece covered with natural gummy lanolin which was then washed with lye and water to free the gold dust from the adhesive grease. A similar technique was used by the 49'ers with their riffle boxes. Later, ore crushing used boulders lashed to a wooden forked limb or the "arrastra" which used a mule pulling a drag stone around a basin containing the ore. The amalgamation of the gold flakes occurred with the addition of mercury which was then extracted by cooking off the mercury. (The Civil War's Union Army Chief Henry Halleck made a fortune with his Almaden Mercury Plant in Northern California.) After processing, the mercury was shipped to the mills in 76-pound iron bottles.

Gold strike locales in Montana were the area of refuge for many of the hoodlum elements purged in the 1850's by San Francisco's vigilantes. A wave of such "health seekers" moved to the more salubrious climes of Montana from San Francisco and were the precursors of the 49'ers who rebounded eastward into the Montana, Arizona, Nevada and Colorado territories to open that region in search of the golden prize. All of this frenzied energy produced numerous supporting industries - machinery manufacturing of costly Cornish pumps, timbering, drayage, saloon keeping, refiners (who liberally kept a good portion of the richest ores) and soda powder explosive manufacturers who mixed their devil's brew at the site and not infrequently blew themselves up.

The prevention of "high-graders" (ore thieves) led to mine operators requiring miners to take baths so as to wash off smears of clay containing gold dust. Miners used false crowned hats and sewed socks inside their trouser legs (leg pockets). It got to be so extreme that some operators required their Cornish miners to squat and lift a substantial weight by its handles so as to jettison a tube of dust. He covers all the cribbing, single jacking, head frames, concentrators and beam engines used in the massive Virginia City and Telluride mines.

Otis Young is a very readable writer who brings a balanced presentation to the subject. The book is not highly technical and brings insights into the problems of mineral extraction and maintaining a stable work force. Miners, cage tenders and mill wrights were known to leave one mill or mine because the "pancakes is out of round" and a competitor paid a few cents more a day. They were a rough and fiercely independent breed.

—Norman S. Marshall