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J. GOODMAN

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Black Homesteaders in Lanfair Valley

Dennis Casebier

Looking out across the vast Joshua tree-forested Lanfair Valley that is largely devoid of human habitation, it is hard to imagine that at one time there were farms, schools, stores, and post offices in this part of the East Mojave, and even a railroad crossing the region.

But a little probing into the history of this place begins to tell the fascinating story of vanished settlements. There was a homesteader boom in this valley beginning in 1910 and continuing into the 1920s. More than 600 homesteading applications were recorded. Two dozen applicants were blacks. The stories of these families of the black homesteading era have largely faded, but because of interest among some of their descendants, and some painstaking research being done by them, the experiences of these early pioneers are slowly being pieced together.

A few hardy people live in Lanfair Valley today, but most landowners use their

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The Branding Iron is always seeking articles of 2,500 words or less dealing with every phase of the history of the Old West and California. Contributions from both members and friends are always welcome.

Editor's Corner . . .

Welcome to the Winter, 2015 edition of the Branding Iron. This time, we have two articles that that are sure to interest readers. First, longtime Mojave historian Dennis Casebier sends us packing to the desert in search of some of the African-American homesteaders in the Lanfair Valley. Dennis conducted extensive research into this little-known facet of Mojave history, and even gathered descendents of some of those early pioneers in an effort to put together this fascinating and interesting look at a certain aspect of land use in the area.

Next, one of our newer members, Geraldine Knatz, begins a series of articles she is preparing on the history of gun clubs on the lands of the former Ranchos Los Cerritos and Los Alamitos. The first article concentrates on the Farmers' Gun Club, and Geraldine has brought to light many aspects of the history of this club through extant records, and even shows us some of the main players through her photographs.

Lastly, Loren Wendt provides more of his great cowboy poetry in the "Poetry Roundup," and "Pablo" even makes an appearance too in his "Reversal of Fortune." Sadly, we say goodbye to longtime Westerner Gordon Bakken too.

Please remember, the Branding Iron is now available in color on the website.

As always, please feel free to contact me regarding ideas for articles. I'm always looking for material to put in the Branding Iron. Luckily, several of you have come forward already and I appreciate it - but there's always room for more! Please consider putting something together that you think may interest the greater Corral as a whole.

Happy Trails!

Steve Lech
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Richard Wesley Hodnett on the crumbling ruins of the old Lanfair School where Wesley attended school sixty years or so earlier.

(Page 1) Homesteaders loading watermelons to be sold at Claypool's Mercantile Company in Needles, California. Krause Collection.

land more informally than homesteaders did in the first decade of the twentieth century. Only some of what was once life-sustaining farmland in this region remains in the ownership of the families that homesteaded there 100 years ago.

Homesteaders in the East Mojave boom were among applicants for ownership of farmland under a Federal law that was aimed at drawing settlers to acreage suitable for dry-land farming. In exchange for the land, homesteaders were required to file an application, improve the property, or "prove up" their claim, and file for a deed of title.

The attraction of the valley for prospective homesteaders centered around the railroad that ran up from Goffs, northward into the New York Mountains to Barnwell and from there northwesterly into Ivanpah Valley, with another branch stretching eastwardly to Searchlight, Nevada. The presence of the railroad supported a speculation that the land might be worth something someday, and it was there for the asking.

All one had to do was file a claim with the General Land Office in Independence, California, pay a small fee, live on the land for seven months each year for three years, clear forty acres or so, plant crops (it didn't matter if the crops came up or not), and file final proof of what had been done. A patent would then be issued by the Federal government giving full title to the land. Some homesteads encompassed 160 acres, but modifications to the homestead laws permitted some homesteaders to gain 320 or even 640 acres later on.

The prospect of free land appealed to many mostly younger and adventuresome people. The overwhelming number of homesteaders were white, but among them were about two dozen black families who came to the valley from Whittier, Los Angeles, and Long Beach. These homesteaders were drawn by the prospect of a better life, according to an oral history left by a woman who was brought to the Mojave as a young girl by her family. Most of the black homesteaders of record were men, but a number were single women.

The blacks located together in the southeast part of the valley along Lanfair Road and to the east several miles out toward the Piute Range, but closer to Lanfair itself than to those mountains.

The earliest recorded presence of black homesteaders in Lanfair began in the first decade of the 1900s, when Dr. Charles H. Duvall, out from Oakland, California, put up an orphanage for black children in the East Mojave. A building was erected, and a few black boys were brought out. The effort never lived up to expectations, and it was short-lived.

Early in the movement, George W. Harts and Howard Folke filed papers for establishment of a settlement that was to be called Harts Town site for the advertised purpose of "bringing freedom and independence to a limited number of colored people."

The two men arranged for a post office at a site called Dunbar, which was established in 1912 with Mr. Folke as postmaster. But by the end of 1914, the post office was gone for reasons that are unclear.

In a third and more enduring effort of black immigration to the Valley, individual families took up land on their own and successfully established homesteads.

The record shows that black homesteaders were among the very earliest to file for homesteads in remote Lanfair Valley. Of the 24 black homesteaders who ultimately proved up their claims and obtained patents to their land, six originally filed claims and moved to the area in 1910, the first year of homesteading in the Valley.

That 24 families were able to obtain patents is remarkable for what it says about their persistence and their success in this difficult land. Some of that land remains under the ownership of those families today. Ultimately, only about 40 percent of all applicants nationwide are said to have obtained title to homestead land before the program ended.

Most of the black Lanfair Valley homesteaders who have given oral history interviews about that experience were children during the period. Some were in their teens and had strong memories; others repeated stories of homesteading in Lanfair Valley that had been told over and over again in their family circles.

Those were fat years in the desert. Rainfall was heavy in the early years of the homesteading era. The fertile soil yielded crops with which homesteaders could sustain themselves.

The Hodnett family visited the Lanfair Valley with Dennis Casebier in 2000.

The children made up their own games and made their own toys, and they played in the wonderland of Joshua trees. From their homesteads, a half-mile or more east of Lanfair, they could see the smoke and hear the whistle of the train rising above the Joshuas as it came through twice a day, once early in the morning from Goffs to Searchlight and later in the day on its return trip.

They had a fine schoolhouse at Lanfair. There were outings to magical places like Fort Piute and Piute Creek and occasional visits to Goffs and sometimes even to Needles.

No black homesteaders owned water wells, although some efforts, ultimately unsuccessful, were made to develop them. It isn't known where all the homesteaders obtained water, but at least several families are said to have obtained their supplies along the water line maintained in the eastern part of the valley by the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company, the East Mojave's largest rancher.

In the course of the homesteading movement in the East Mojave, records show that twenty-four black families stuck it out and obtained patents to their land. Some of that land remains under the ownership of those families today. In one case, the family paid taxes on the land for more than fifty years, yet nobody in the family had seen it. On one memorable day, members of the family stopped at the Goffs Cultural Center, hoping to locate the homestead. The staff shut down the museum, got in their vehicles, and went out into Lanfair Valley. Soon, there at the feet of the homesteader's descendants were the scant remains—what archeologists could call a debris field—of what was once a pioneering family's home: a few boards, glass shards, tin cans, a sturdy fence line still in place, and the intangible roots of a proud family.

One common theme expressed in Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association oral histories has to do with race relations in the East Mojave in that period. Black and white people alike express an almost categorical denial of any prejudice or discrimination between the races in the desert settlements. An examination of the record shows that this was not the case, but it is likely that the intensity and level of racial discord was less than that encountered in many other places in the United States at that time.

One dialogue with a white lady who was a young girl during the teens and attended the Lanfair School with black children, reflects that remembered sentiment:

Question: You were in school with black children. Did you perceive discrimination?

Answer: No. They were kids to me. I didn't care whether they were pink, red, or white.

Question: Was there any discussion amongst the adults?

Answer: No, never heard a word. Never. Mr. Jones [a black man] used to help my dad plow. And my dad helped him plow. One time, we'd gone on Saturday up to the railroad, to the Post Office with the team of mules, and while we were gone, a flash flood came along. Well we had two washes. When we came back, we could not get across those washes because they were overflowing. Well we were stuck, and here it was evening, you know. So we stayed all night at the Jones's.

I don't think they ever came to any of our dances. I don't remember any of them coming to the dances. But I'll say this much: I never heard anybody talking about their color.

No. I never heard anything like that. They were good people. The Hodnetts family, there were lots of kids in that family. But not all of them were at home. But I knew Mrs. Hodnett. They had a cow, and I'll always remember good old Mrs. Hodnett. She was a little bit of a thing, sort of reddish-haired and freckled-faced doll. We'd come by on horseback from school, and she'd flag us down and give us a glass of buttermilk and a hot biscuit.

These childhood memories aside, there is evidence of some discrimination. It should be noted that the young girl recalled, "I don't think they ever came to any of our dances." There's a reason for this. The bylaws of the Yucca Club, the social club that organized monthly dances in Lanfair Valley, stated that a member could be "any white person in the valley."

Interviews with members of black homesteader families who were children in that era showed that they remembered

little about community picnics, pioneer celebrations held at Lanfair on the 4th of July, and other social occasions, and they did not recall attending any such events. This suggests that their parents did not feel welcome at those gatherings. They must have known that they were not welcome at the community dances each month.

Nevertheless, the years spent by black families in Lanfair were remembered as a happy time. They are recalled fondly by those who lived there as young people and in stories that have been passed down.

The trail of the hardy people who undertook the challenges of life on this difficult land 100 years ago grows dimmer with the years, and there are many unanswered questions. More needs to be known about George W. Harts, Charles H. Duvall, and Howard Folke, three men who encouraged homesteading by blacks, for example. There are many other questions, among them, whose name was given to the short-lived post office at Dunbar? Was it the celebrated black literary figure Paul Laurence Dunbar, who was well-known at that time and an enduring source of pride among African Americans?

Descendants of a few homesteaders have been located by MDHCA. These people are the sources of the little that is known of the history of black homesteaders in the East Mojave. But little is known of the others who proved up their homesteads and obtained patent to the land.

Their names, in official records, are: Estella (Stella) Baker, William Bronson, Frank Carter, William H. Carter, a civil war veteran, Nanie Mary Craig, Robert Edwards, Mathew Hodnett, Richard W. Hodnett, Ulysses Hodnett, William Hodnett, Stonewall Jackson, Anna Jones, John David Jones, John Massie, Nathan Lowe, Henry Morton, John Richard Moulton, Eliza Louise (Hawthorne) Reynolds, Millie C. Sheppard, Lila A. Smith, Alfred Summers, a former Buffalo soldier who served in the U.S. 10th Cavalry Regiment, Annie Taylor, widow of Thomas Taylor, and William C. Williams.

Bibliographical note: This article is based upon four major sources:

1. Transcriptions of more than 100 oral history interviews with East Mojave homesteaders and their descendants.
2. Copies of complete Serial Patent Files for the 200 cases where homesteaders in Lanfair Valley proved up and obtained patent to the land. National Archives. Records of the General Land Office (RG-94)
3. Contemporary newspaper clips.
4. Other miscellaneous sources.

Students (black and white) in front of the Lanfair School in late teens. Salee/Gortikov Collection

Poetry Roundup

by
Loren Wendt

Sergeant Reckless

She was made a Sergeant and "Reckless" was her name
Her deeds, her heroism, they all added to her fame
gullets, shrapnel, whatever, she never seemed to care
What a wonderful horse, this plucky white faced Little mare

She carried supplies and ammunition, her military role
She also evacuated the wounded, bless her honored soul
At the battle of Outpost Vegas, she came on really strong
51 trips to the front lines to show the weakened enemy wrong

Oh, and how she loved scrambled eggs, chocolate and beer
As she brought her soldier friends such hope and good cheer
She was once a Corporal, but became a Sergeant in 54
With all those medals on that blanket she always wore

She was retired in 60 so she could live out her days
At Camp Pendleton where she lived with all her earned praise
Praise from all those veterans who knew her colorful story
Stories of her deeds, her devotion and her earned glory

DUST! DUST ! DUST !

It was a time of waterless skies and parched land
Where before there were green fields and abundant crops
Western skies grew dark and farmers didn't understand
Day after day a curtain of darkness that never stops

These " Children Of the Prairie" were frightened
As that "Curtain Of Darkness" fell over their homes
And each and every day that awful fright just heightened
Perished pastures, soaring heat and the farmers moans

Suddenly Western Kansas was the worst we had ever seen
It was most surely the " Great American Dust Bowl"
Then, another plague , grasshoppers eating everything green
Dust, grasshoppers, nothing left to make those farmers whole

That "Curtain Of Darkness" and grasshoppers everywhere
But those brave families had to brave that awful scope
Parched pastures, soaring heat and choking air
A tragedy beyond imagination, beyond any reasonable hope

But there were individuals among us with courage and belief
They said, "this too shall pass" and we really believed
When suddenly the skies turned blue, then came relief
Rain, verdant pastures, green everywhere, we were relieved

Yes, we survived the " Great American Dust Bowl Of The 30's" and we had inherited the blessed wind and rain.

Historic Gun Clubs on the Lands of the Rancho Los Cerritos and Rancho Los Alamitos

Part I - The Farmers Gun Club*

By Dr. Geraldine Knatz

In the early part of the 20th century, duck hunting was a popular sport among businessmen in the Los Angeles area. In 1908, there were at least 36 gun clubs in southern California, occupying over 20,000 acres of land. In 1910, the *Los Angeles Times* reported there were 41 clubs with a collective membership of 564 members. At least ten clubs were documented to have occupied lands in the greater Long Beach area, specifically on lands that were formerly part of Rancho Los Cerritos and Rancho Los Alamitos. This article will focus on the Farmers Gun club and is the first in a series about these historic gun clubs known as the Green Wing Club (also spelled Greenwing), Bixby Club, Gadwell (also spelled Cadwell, or Gadwill), Long Beach Gun Club, Cerritos Gun Club, Pasadena Gun Club, Farmers Gun Club, Willow Gun Club, Alamitos Gun Club and Alamitos Annex. Although these clubs were generally located in Los Angeles County, four clubs on land of the Rancho Los Alamitos (Willow, Alamitos, Alamitos Annex and Farmers) extended into Orange County.

The rancho lands were originally used for cattle, then sheep and ultimately farming or dairy operations. However, during the end of the 19th century and first few decades of the 20th century, gun clubs were established on lands leased from both ranchos. Even though these clubs were considered Long Beach clubs and located southeast of Los Angeles, club membership drew heavily from the Los Angeles business community. Most of these clubs were served by either the Pacific Electric or Terminal Railroads, making transportation to the clubs convenient for the Los Angeles-based members.

Records documenting the actual location of the Long Beach clubs are limited and often imprecise. Ledger books for the Rancho Los Cerritos were destroyed in the 1970s and the Rancho has no documented lease records for gun clubs. The ledger books for Rancho Los Alamitos contain only one entry, a 1904 record of income in the amount of $5,000 from an unnamed gun club.

Unlike clubs in Orange County and other areas of California, most of the Long Beach area clubs were on leased rather than purchased land. It also appears that when a club lease expired, a different club might lease some or all of the former club lands adding further confusion to the task of sorting out the different clubs. Sometimes clubs might sublease a portion of their leased property to another club. For example, the Cerritos Gun Club subleased one of their ponds to J. E. Fishburn in 1898 on the condition that hunters using that pond provided their own sleeping quarters and not consider themselves members of the Cerritos Club. However, the Farmers Club was unique for

**Editor's note - This is the first in a series of articles by Dr. Knatz that will be published in subsequent editions of the Branding Iron.*

a Long Beach club because a portion of the land was purchased by the club members.

Oral histories collected by the California State University at Long Beach and Rancho Los Cerritos, along with city directories and newspaper clippings, provided a significant source of information for this paper. The bank papers of Philander E. Hatch in the Special Collections, California State University at Long Beach, contain the early records of the Farmers Gun Club.

The Farmers Gun Club was organized on April 14th, 1916 by six men, Messrs. Boyle, Williams, DeVaul, Strodthoff, Ables and Hatch. Gus J. Strodthoff was elected President. Strodthoff was employed as a secretary to J. Ross Clarke, President of the Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad, a southern subsidiary of the Union Pacific Railroad. Strodthoff was one of the first employees hired by Clarke for a sugar beet operation which was constructed in 1896 in Los Alamitos. Strodthoff ultimately rose in the ranks to become General Manager of the Los Alamitos Sugar Company which was located adjacent to the Club's land. The club also leased land from the Sugar Company. John E. Hatch was elected the club treasurer. Hatch was a banker for Long Beach National Bank and the son of the Long Beach National Bank President Philander E. Hatch, founder of the Green Wing Club near Long Beach. Minutes from the first organizational meeting of the Farmers Gun Club list the founding 16 members (see Table 1).

The initial dues were set at $25.00 for each member recognizing that additional assessments could be necessary. In 1921, ten members of the club purchased 100 acres of land for $25,000 from Hugh O'Conner and K. V. and Nina Bennis, husband and wife. The original equity members of the Club were Hatch, Wright, Lanterman, Wark, Briggs, McGrew, Rankin, Bellows, Havner and Clewett. Hatch, Bellow and Wright were the only founding members who became equity members. According to Jim Craig, son of a former member, the club purchased the land at a low cost because the soil was determined to be too alkaline for farming.

The property was to be paid for in four payments on or before June 10, 1923 but records show that the Bank of California held a mortgage of $7,000 that was to mature in June, 1924. When the mortgage came due in 1924, Hatch negotiated a partial payment of $3500 with a request to extend the remainder for an additional year. In 1927, club members transferred title to the Security Trust and Savings Bank still owing $3,500. By 1929, records show the club owned 100 acres free and clear. Title to the property was then held in the name of the Security First National Bank in trust for the gun club members. Club Treasurer J. E. Hatch also worked for the Security Trust and Savings Bank and the Security First National Bank, which were successor banks to the National Bank of Long Beach.

In response to the survey undertaken by the American Wild Fowlers in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey in 1930, the club reported ownership of 100 acres and a leasehold of 180 acres. On an application for renewal of a license to raise domesticated fish, the location of the club was described as "Rancho Los Alamitos, Orange County, a portion of the North one-half (N1/2) of Section 20 Township four (4) South, Range Eleven (11) West S/B/B/ & M.)."

Table 1
Original Members of Farmers Gun Club

C. B. Wright, Long Beach Drug Company
C. B. Bellows, Ocean View Garage
C. C. Hamilton, Los Alamitos, President of the Los Alamitos Sugar Company
W. H. Williams, Los Alamitos
C. L. DeVaul, Los Alamitos
E. Radford, Los Alamitos
J. R. Pickrell, Busy Bee Drug Co.
P. F. Spicer, Natl. Bank Bldg.
G. M. Spicer, Ist National Bank Bldg.
R. C. Nissen, W. 1st Street
D. H. Ables, Los Alamitos
G. J. Strodthoff and Bros., Los Alamitos Sugar Company
J. E. Hatch, National Bank of Long Beach

The amount of land the club leased over time varied. In good years, the club might lease additional acreage for short periods of time. Some lands were offered for lease to the club tied to a commitment to allow oil exploration on the club's own property. In a 1926 letter to the Fish and Game Commission, Hatch described the club as

> one mile and a quarter, east of Los Alamitos. We own and have under lease 219 acres of land the majority of which is flooded each year during duck season, being divided into five and ten acres ponds varying in depth up to three feet. The water level is maintained by a well on the property which we pump.

The Orange County directory for 1932 lists the address of the Farmers Gun Club as Moody Road, 1/4 mile south of Ball Road. A 1934 map showing the gun club lands is shown in Figure 1. Today, Cedar Glen Park in the city of Cypress is on the site where the Farmers Clubhouse once stood. The park is adjacent to Carbon Creek, now a concrete flood control channel.

The Farmers Gun Club is probably best known for its duck hunters not its ducks. Babe Ruth was a guest of the club twice. One of Babe Ruth's trips to Long Beach to hunt became legendary because he was arrested

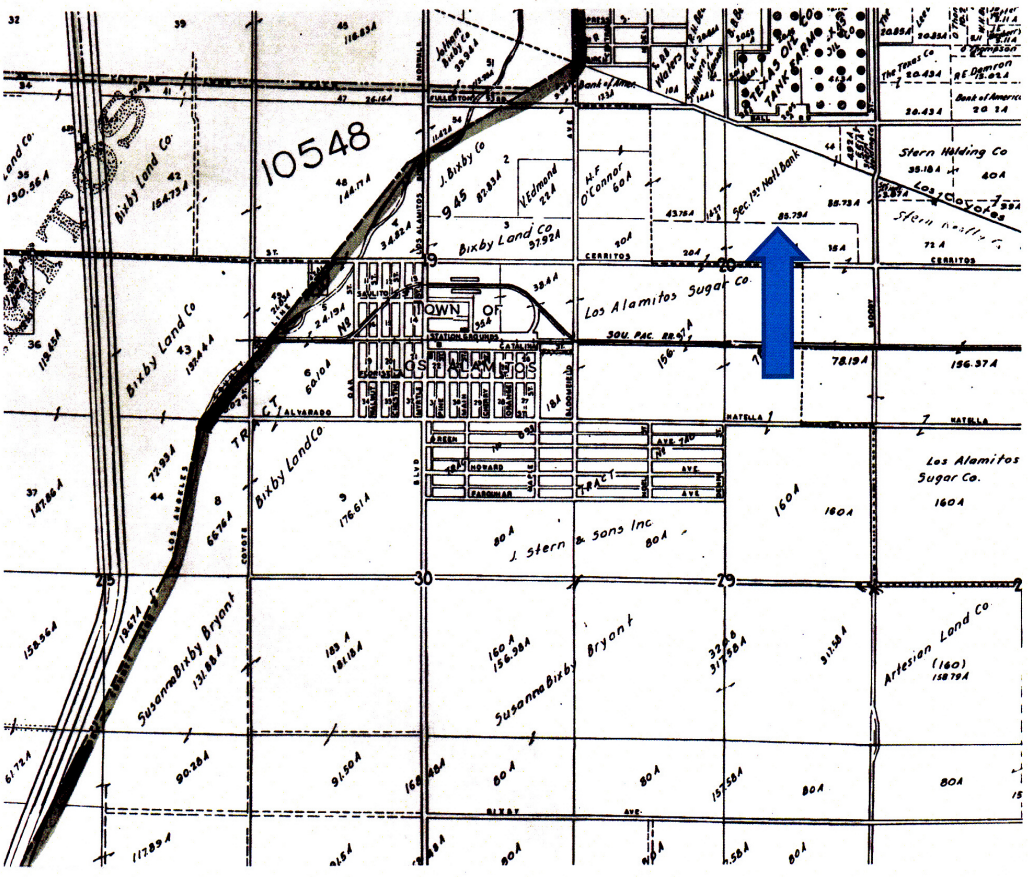


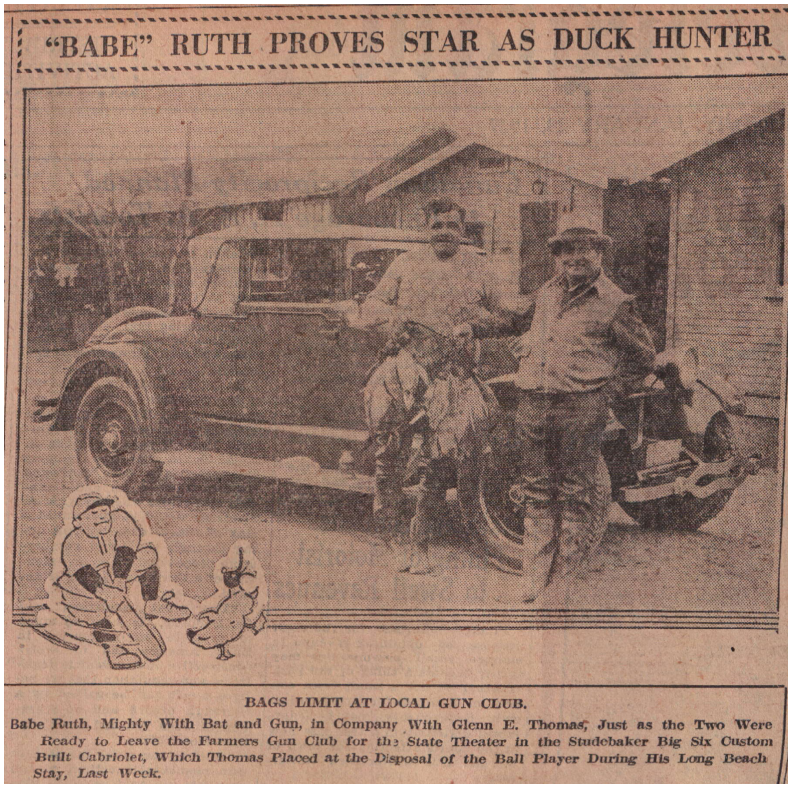
Figure 1. 1934 Land Ownership Map from the collection of the Rancho Los Cerritos showing lands that were held in trust by Security 1st National Bank for Farmers Gun Club Members (upper right hand corner). Note Moody Road running north and south and the diagonal boundary line of the Rancho. The clubhouse was just south of the Rancho boundary line on Moody Road.

and booked by the Long Beach Police Department for child endangerment, only five days after he had been presented the keys to the city by the Long Beach Mayor. On January 22, 1927, a San Diego judge had issued a bench warrant for his arrest because a Deputy State Labor Commissioner had objected to Ruth using children during his shows. Ruth would bring kids up on the stage to have them do tricks in exchange for a baseball. Despite the warrant, Ruth went hunting the next day as the guest of Glenn E. Thomas at the Farmers Gun Club. Thomas was a well-known Long Beach auto dealer and former Long Beach City Councilman. A photo of Thomas and Ruth at the Farmers Clubhouse appeared in the *Long Beach Press Telegram* newspaper on January 23, 1927.

Ruth and Thomas were accompanied on the hunt by club members C. T. and Hal McGrew, well-known builders in Long Beach, William Wart, Fred Clewett and H. A. Havner, owner of Long Beach Brick Company. The hunters arrived at the club house at 4 a.m. and had breakfast. According to the news story, Ruth bagged his limit of 25 birds by 2 p.m., in plenty of time for the club's renowned chicken dinner and his matinee performance at the Long Beach State Theatre at 3 p.m. Afterwards, Ruth appeared at the Police Department with $500 cash to bail himself out and the child endangerment charges were later dropped.

After Ruth's death in 1948, Glenn E. Thomas reminisced about his two duck hunting trips with Babe Ruth at the Farmers Gun Club. Noting that Babe had one of baseball's keenest eyes at the plate, Thomas said he was only fair when it came to downing ducks. "The Babe was a good sportsman," said Thomas. "But I have to admit he wasn't much of a shot. He had a great time though and thoroughly enjoyed the outings. Our party got plenty of ducks and a picture was taken of the group showing Ruth pretty well supplied with birds."

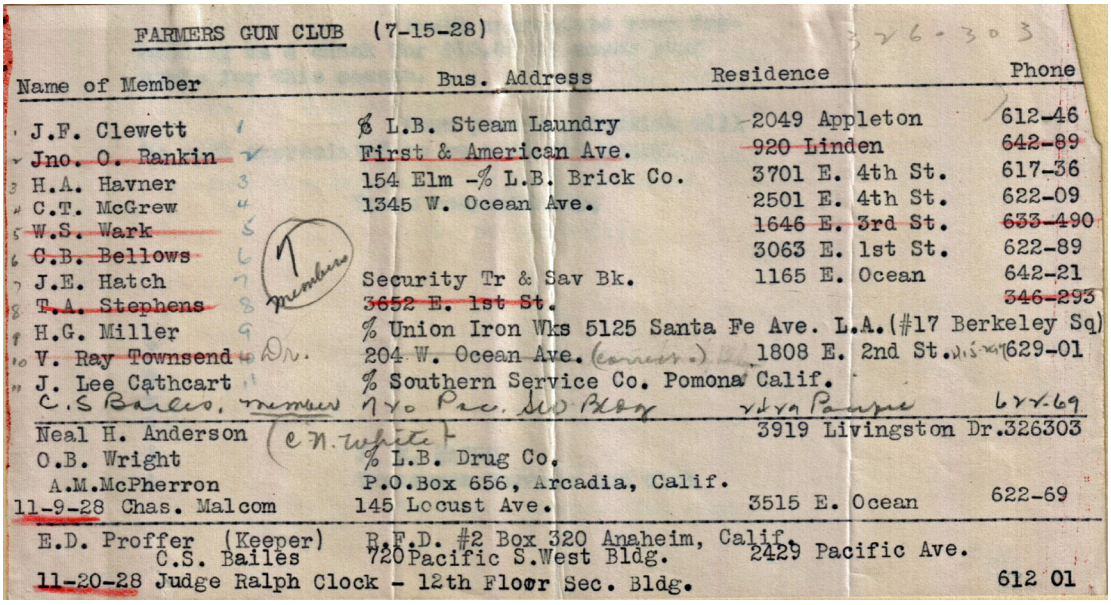
As club treasurer, Hatch managed all the affairs of the club including membership records, correspondence with other clubs and duck hunting organizations, finances and real estate matters. He would also order supplies of feed and purchase decoys. Hatch kept the club records at the bank where he worked as an assistant cashier, while his father, Philander Hatch, was the Bank President. As Hatch's banking career advanced and banks merged, Hatch moved the club records to each successive bank.


"BABE" RUTH PROVES STAR AS DUCK HUNTER

BAGS LIMIT AT LOCAL GUN CLUB.

Babe Ruth, Mighty With Bat and Gun, in Company With Glenn E. Thomas, Just as the Two Were Ready to Leave the Farmers Gun Club for the State Theater in the Studebaker Big Six Custom Built Cabriolet, Which Thomas Placed at the Disposal of the Ball Player During His Long Beach Stay, Last Week.

Figure 2. Photo printed on January 23, 1927 in the Long Beach Press Telegram newspaper of Babe Ruth with Glenn E. Thomas (on right) as they two were getting ready to leave the Farmers Gun Club for Ruth's performance at the Long Beach State Theatre. (Long Beach Historical Society Collection Newspaper Collection).



FARMERS GUN CLUB (7-15-28)

Name of Member	Bus. Address	Residence	Phone
J.F. Clewett	% L.B. Steam Laundry	2049 Appleton	612-46
Jno. O. Rankin	First & American Ave.	920 Linden	642-89
H.A. Havner	154 Elm -% L.B. Brick Co.	3701 E. 4th St.	617-36
C.T. McGrew	1345 W. Ocean Ave.	2501 E. 4th St.	622-09
W.S. Wark		1646 E. 3rd St.	633-490
C.B. Bellows		3063 E. 1st St.	622-89
J.E. Hatch	Security Tr & Sav Bk.	1165 E. Ocean	642-21
T.A. Stephens	3652 E. 1st St.		346-293
H.G. Miller	% Union Iron Wks 5125 Santa Fe Ave. L.A.	(#17 Berkeley Sq)	
V. Ray Townsend	204 W. Ocean Ave.	1808 E. 2nd St.	629-01
J. Lee Cathcart	% Southern Service Co. Pomona Calif.		
C.S Bailes, member	720 Pac. S.W. Bldg	Vista Paseo	622-69
Neal H. Anderson		3919 Livingston Dr.	326303
O.B. Wright	% L.B. Drug Co.		
A.M.McPherron	P.O.Box 656, Arcadia, Calif.		
11-9-28 Chas. Malcom	145 Locust Ave.	3515 E. Ocean	622-69
E.D. Proffer (Keeper)	R.F.D. #2 Box 320 Anaheim, Calif.		
C.S. Bailes	720 Pacific S.West Bldg.	2429 Pacific Ave.	
11-20-28 Judge Ralph Clock - 12th Floor Sec. Bldg.			612 01

Figure 3. 1928 Roster of Farmers Gun Club members maintained by J. E. Hatch. Collection of California State University at Long Beach, Special Collections Library.

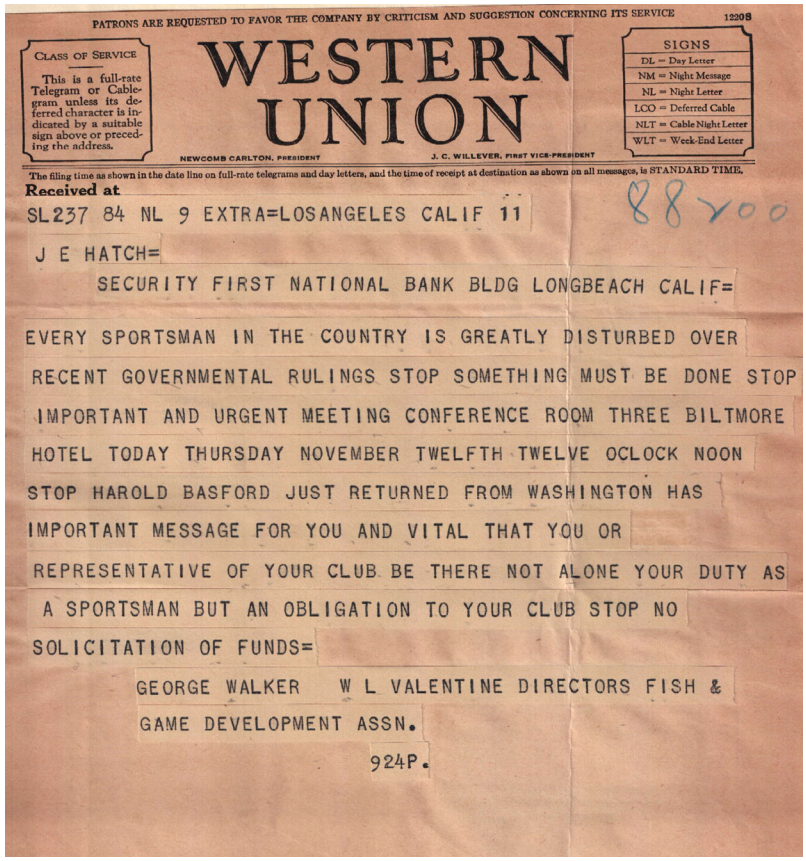
The records include extensive receipts for purchases of supplies, bait, and food by Hatch and the keeper. For example, Hatch's correspondence with Philip W. Schwehm, Breeder of Game Birds, Seattle, WA., indicate the purchase of a pair of one year old call ducks for $18.25 and a pair of "youngsters" for $11.00 and 3 Black Mallard hens and one drake for $7.24. When Schwehm was unable to supply birds, he referred Hatch to the source of his breeding stock, Wallace Evans Game Farm in St. Charles, Illinois. Hatch also purchased a dozen steel decoys from B. C. Metal Stamping Company for $6.00, a significant reduction from the usual price of $11.

Hatch kept meticulous membership records. The roster for 1926 is shown in Figure 3. Each year, the club would sell shooting privileges to other hunters besides the equity members. For example, in 1929, Will J. Reid (a member of the Cerritos Gun Club) and Judge Ralph H. Clock purchased hunting privileges for $400 each.

Despite the substantial standing of the members as successful businessmen, Hatch was constantly focused on the club income and reminding members of payments due. When a member decided to leave the club, the remaining members were asked if the club should buy back the membership. For example, to purchase back a membership in 1928 which was valued at $2500, each member was assessed $250. That membership was resold for $4000. If club members could not raise the funds needed to buy back memberships as happened in 1929, when a number of members left the club, member Harry Havner, owner of the Long Beach Brick Company, would loan funds to the club. By the end of 1929, Havner was owed $12,500 for five memberships. Yet, purchase of a membership by the club was preferred to having a member sell his membership to another hunter. In one incident, a member tried to sell his membership to the son-in-law of member Lee Cathcart. When this prospective new member showed up at the club with his father-in-law, the other hunters did not allow him to hunt. It was an embarrassing situation that Hatch tried to remedy in writing afterward in a letter to Cathcart. "Some members felt he was a high shooter and that would not fit with our group." Club memberships were clearly not transferrable and the club policy of buying them back put further strain on the club finances.

It was during Hatch's presidency of the club in 1926 that the Santa Ana District

Attorney filed suit against fourteen Orange County Gun clubs, including Farmers, for wasting water. At issue was whether filling of artificial ponds to lure ducks for hunters' enjoyment used water that could have been put to more beneficial uses, like agriculture. By now, the fight over using water for duck ponds in southern California had been fought for twenty years since a case had been brought against the Cerritos Gun Club in 1907. The Orange County Water District and Orange County Farm Bureau kept attention on water usage by the gun clubs throughout the early 1930s. However, after the initial 1926 lawsuit, the Farmers Club stocked their ponds with fish to show that their ponds had beneficial uses. In November, 1926, Hatch corresponded with W. H. Shelby, the head of California's Bureau of Fishculture, seeking information on where to get the right type of fish for their ponds and how to maintain them. One has to chuckle at the line in Hatch's letter to Shelby "our boys are quite anxious to do a little fishing from time to time."



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SL237 84 NL 9 EXTRA=LOSANGELES CALIF 11

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EVERY SPORTSMAN IN THE COUNTRY IS GREATLY DISTURBED OVER RECENT GOVERNMENTAL RULINGS STOP SOMETHING MUST BE DONE STOP IMPORTANT AND URGENT MEETING CONFERENCE ROOM THREE BILTMORE HOTEL TODAY THURSDAY NOVEMBER TWELFTH TWELVE OCLOCK NOON STOP HAROLD BASFORD JUST RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON HAS IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR YOU AND VITAL THAT YOU OR REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR CLUB BE THERE NOT ALONE YOUR DUTY AS A SPORTSMAN BUT AN OBLIGATION TO YOUR CLUB STOP NO SOLICITATION OF FUNDS=

GEORGE WALKER W L VALENTINE DIRECTORS FISH & GAME DEVELOPMENT ASSN.

924P.

Figure 4. 1932 Copy of Telegram to J. E. Hatch of Farmers Gun Club requesting attendance of gun club representatives at meeting in Los Angeles. Collection of California State University Long Beach Special Collections Library.

The Farmers Club became politically active to preserve their sport. Not only were members fighting local efforts to limit club water usage, the club was active on a national level regarding proposed regulations to prohibit baiting or feeding of ducks. W. L. Valentine, a member of the Cerritos Gun Club, along with George Walker, both directors of the Fish and Game Development Association, organized an urgent meeting in the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel in 1933 to discuss pending regulations on baiting (see Figure 4.).

By the 1930s, increased pressure over water usage and concern over the protection of migratory birds put significant limits on duck hunting. During this time, the remaining members had difficulty keeping the club active. In the early 1930s, only seven equity members of the club were left: Sheridan Bailes, Lee Cathcart, Mrs. Ruth Clewett (widow of a member), J. E. Hatch, H. A. Havner, C. T. McGrew and Horace Miller. The membership stayed pretty constant at seven although more hunters were sold hunting privileges. Seasonal shooting privileges in 1933 were sold to H. Cree, George Duty, George Williams, Robert Cathcart (Lee's son-in-law who had been previously refused membership), Charles

Fickert, S. Lambing, Herb Kohlbush, and S. Jasper.

The gun club records include a letter Hatch wrote on January 18, 1934 to W. C. Tuttle, a well-known western pulp fiction writer who had shooting privileges at the club. Hatch stated that "duck hunting had changed. A number of suits against Orange County Clubs were started this last year but our club was not served, maybe on account of having the fish and the fact we have a commercial hatchery license."

In 1934, the equity members decided to operate the older part of the club for $150 each with only eleven days of shooting for seven hunters. Members lamented about having to maintain the place for so few days to shoot. In 1935, Hatch agreed to rent the property for one year at a rate of $100 per month to the W. A. Thompson Daily Farms for pasture. Hatch communicated with Gus Strodthoff, who was then working for the Montana Land Company (the Los Alamitos Sugar Company had closed by 1926) about the club's decision to rent club lands including the land leased from the Montana Land Company. He agreed to rent the same land again in 1936, his letter indicating that the clubs future plans "are somewhat indefinite." It is here that club records kept by Hatch end.

Los Angeles County property records show club lands were transferred from Security First National Bank in 1931 to an individual, P. Schumacher, and then in 1937 to Harry Havner, who was still owed $10,000. It was at this time that the club was reorganized as a corporation known as Alamitos Farmers Inc. When Havner was paid back, the club lands were reconveyed to the Alamitos Farmers Corporation with Security First National Bank as the trustee. Havner was now President of the newly-incorporated club which had some new equity members. James G. Craig of the Long Beach Craig Shipyard was one of the equity members. His Alamitos Farmer's Inc. stock certificate, valued at $25,000, is shown in Figure 5.


NUMBER 11 SHARES 1

ALAMITOS FARMERS, INC.
AUTHORIZED CAPITAL STOCK $25,000.00

This Certifies that ** JAMES G. CRAIG ** is the owner of
** ONE ** Shares of the Capital Stock of
ALAMITOS FARMERS, INC.
transferable only on the books of the Corporation by the holder hereof in person or by Attorney upon surrender of this Certificate properly endorsed.
In Witness Whereof, the said Corporation has caused this Certificate to be signed by its duly authorized officers and to be sealed with the Seal of the Corporation at this 19th day of November A.D. 19 40

President. ~~Secretary~~ Secretary. ~~President~~

SHARES $10.00 EACH

Figure 5. Stock certificate issued to gun club member James G. Craig, from the Alamitos Farmers Gun Club (formerly called Farmers Gun Club) for one share worth $10. Harry Havner who was club president and William H. Cree, Club Secretary signed their names in the wrong places.

There is little mention of the Farmers Gun Club in the press after the 1940s, although the *Los Angeles Times* notes a shoot at the Farmers Gun Club in 1952 on Ball Road. In 1940, a case against the Farmers Gun Club of Cypress for wasting water was dismissed after the jury could not reach a verdict after 22 hours of deliberation. A photo album of club members, circa 1940, illustrates hunters from the 1933 club roster but also some later equity members like James G. Craig and his brother George (see Figures 6-9).

Figure 6. James G. Craig, Craig Shipbuilding of Long Beach, at Farmers Gun Club, circa 1940. Gun appears to be lower grade Parker, possible a 16 or 20 gauge, with fairly short barrels. Ducks include at least two pintails and possibly two shovelers.

Figure 7. George Craig, Craig Shipbuilding of Long Beach, at Farmers Gun Club, circa 1940. Gun appears to be a high grade A. H. Fox, possibly a 16 or 20 gauge, with short barrels, ventilated rib, finely figured wood and possible a straight butt stock with no grip. It is likely an ejector gun with a single trigger. This would be a very desirable double gun today. The 1939 price of this gun, assuming it is a 20 gauge CE grade with visible options, was about $175. If in excellent shape today, it would easily bring about 20 times that amount, possibly much more, about $3-4000. If it was a 20 gauge, it could be much more than that but it looks too delicate for an HE grade. Harry Havner, Farmers Gun Club member and President of Alamitos Farmers Club in 1940. Gun appears to be a lower grade Parker, likely a 20 gauge, with a fore-end latch indicating an ejector gun. The barrels could be 30" or longer.

Figure 8. (Left) William H. Cree, Farmers Gun Club Secretary in 1940. Gun appears to be a side lock, likely an L.C. Smith or Lefever with a standard fore-end stock. Ducks include at least two pintails.

Figure 9. (Below) Charlie Fickert and his best friend, Farmers Gun Club, circa 1940. Gun appears to be a Parker, possibly a skeet model, beavertail fore-end, with very short barrels, likely 26." If it is a skeet gun, it quite possibly has a ventilated rib. Notice that the butt-stock included what looks to be a metal monogram plate. It is likely an ejector gun with a single trigger. The retail price in 1939 would have been about $250. for a DHEA skeet grade. The current market value of this fun in excellent condition today would be in excess of $4-5000. Ducks include two pintails and two green-winged teal.

In December, 1952, the club lands were granted to James G. Craig, Raleigh Darnell and Glenn E. Thomas, as trustees. This action was likely taken in order to efficiently disband the club and sell the property. The next month, in January, 1953, the club lands were sold to Japanese farmers and the ten equity club members executed a quit-claim to their share of the property.

At the time the club disbanded, none of the members listed were founding members. The member with the longest standing in the club was Harry Havner who was an original equity member in 1921 and Glenn E. Thomas and Sheridan Bailes who had shooting privileges in 1926.

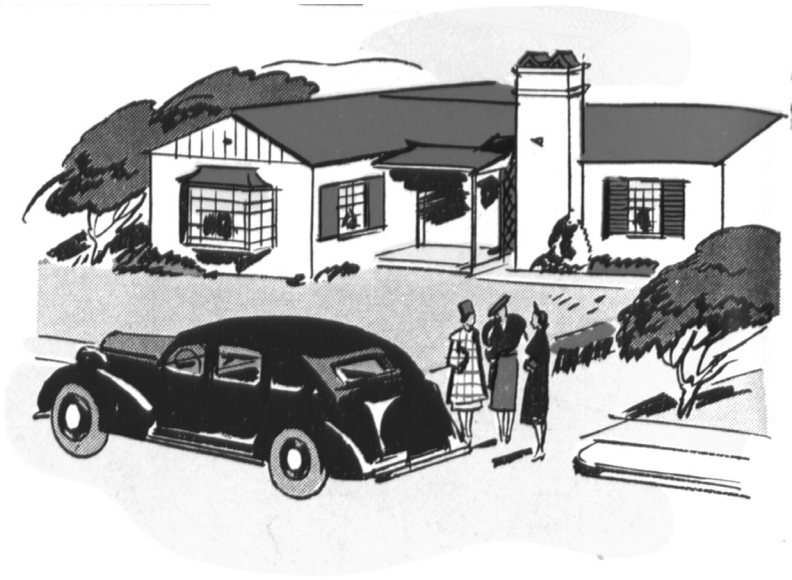
In March 1956, the Long Beach Gun Club's Annual Memorial Shoot honored the memory of six hunters including Sheridan Bailes and William H. Cree from Farmers.

Acknowledgments

The author would like to acknowledge Frank Hall who made numerous helpful suggestions on this paper as well as identified the guns in the photographs.

For Further Reading:

1. Box No. 22 Special Collections of the California State University of Long Beach. The box included files of the Farmers Gun Club from its founding in 1916 to approximately 1937. Files include all correspondence of John E. Hatch, Club Treasurer and President among membership, other gun clubs and duck hunting organizations, records of equipment purchases, feed and decoy purchases. Telegrams regarding the need for urgent meetings associated with the criminal charges files against the Orange County Gun Clubs and efforts to lobby Washington regarding the continued right to hunt. Books of checks stubs in the 1940's show continued activity of Hatch with Farmers Gun Club.
2. *They Came to Shoot, A History of California Duck Clubs and Wetland Conservation* by Frank A. Hall. Published by California Waterfowl, 2011.
3. California Waterfowl, May/June and July/August 2008 editions with papers by Frank Hall
4. The Virtual Oral/Aural History Archive at California State University at Long Beach http://salticid.nmc.csulb.edu/cgi-bin/WebObjects/OralAural2.woa for oral interview of Virginia Reid Moore, daughter of Will J. Reid.
5. An interview with E. M. (Snow) Buckwalter in two parts by Fredrica H. Whyte. Los Fierros Docents Publication, La Casa del Rancho Los Cerritos, Fall 1971, Volume 8, Number 3 available at Rancho Los Cerritos.
6. For information on Babe Ruth's visit and arrest in Long Beach, see Claudine Burnett's *Haunted Long Beach 2: The Odd and Unusual in and Around Long Beach, California.* Published by AuthorHouse, 2010.



Down the Western Book Trail . . .

***THE MONTANA VIGILANTES, 1863-1870**: Gold, Guns, and Gallows*, by Mark C. Dillon. Logan: Utah State University Press, 2013. 449 pp. Map, Illustrations, Appendices, Bibliography, Index, Hardbound, $34.95. www.usupress.com . Reviewed by Jerry Selmer

The author is an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court. Hence, in Dillon's recounting of the history of vigilantism in the early days of the Territory of Montana, he generally compares and contrasts each event with requirements of the law in today's world. Many of us, whether legally trained or not, have some idea of the concepts of due process, unwarranted search and seizure, appeals from lower court rulings, etc., however his clear analysis spells things out in a very understandable manner. Justice Dillon's comparisons of frontier justice to these concepts make for an interesting exposition of (perhaps) how far we believe we have come since those days of the "Wild West."

Following the ultimate agreement with Great Britain as to where the border with Canada should be, the interior part of the Pacific Northwest evolved into the specific territory of Idaho and later, a split-off portion named Montana. This part of the developing United States was far away from Washington, D.C. and certainly not of high importance in terms of a legal framework which could bring order to its new society. Most of the new immigrants to the area wanted to make their living with ranching and/or mining. The mines turned out to be productive which, in turn, brought a lawless breed of men who did not want to dig for the gold; they just wanted to take it.

At first, the people in the area were unsure what to do about bold daylight robberies of stage coaches and wagons carrying the precious minerals. Also, there were instances of cattle rustling and horse stealing. The problem grew worse as time passed. At first, citizens tried electing officers of the law, but some of those thus chosen either turned out to be outlaws themselves, or lacked the wherewithal to bring any sense of law and order to the territory.

Some years earlier, similar events occurred in San Francisco, and the problems there were solved by the formation of vigilante committees and the ensuing brand of "justice." Looking to California as a model, the good folks of certain mining towns in Montana decided that the vigilante system would be the appropriate thing to put in place. Several committees were formed in the various locations and each consisted of a small board of governance and perhaps as many as a hundred or so members. The object was to catch any criminals, bring them before the committee, find them guilty or not, and if guilty, hang them on the spot.

The author cites a number of specific cases which have been documented. Each follows a similar pattern. The culprit(s) apprehended, the committee meets and on a voice vote determines a verdict of guilty. Within a matter of a few minutes an appropriate platform or tree limb is found. The rope is placed around the criminal's neck and, as in the movies, the horse or wagon is run out from under him or the board supporting him is kicked away, and the hanging is complete. This is often followed by a wild celebration at the nearest saloon.

Some years earlier, the U.S. Army issued a field regulation about hanging. It specified the type of rope, how the knot would be fashioned, and gave a table of lengths and required rope strength depending on the height and weight of the person to be executed. Apparently many of the vigilance committees had a copy of this information and tried to follow it as best they could. Even with their best efforts, there were a number of instances when it did not work right and the "hangee" did not die of a broken neck as was supposed to happen. Instead, he was strangled by the rope. Unfortunately, this could take up to twenty or thirty minutes. The audience was generally respectful, that is they did not adjourn to the saloon until he was dead.

In later years, regular courts came into existence, however the public did not always believe they were doing their job and thus, on occasion, vigilantism again became the order of the day. One thing did change in these subsequent "courts." Initially, the guilty verdict had always meant hanging. Later, two other verdicts were added: horsewhipping and permanent exile from the territory. These latter two punishments were not used too much, but at least there was some alternative.

Justice Dillon has put in a great deal of work researching this subject and a fine job in presenting his material. I hope it isn't too much of a stretch to say you will find the work informative and enlightening.

WITH ANZA TO CALIFORNIA, 1775-1776: *The Journal of Pedro Font, O.F.M.*, translated and edited by Alan K. Brown. Norman: Arthur H. Clark Company, 2011. 464 pp. Maps, Illustrations, Notes, Bibliography, Index. Hardbound, $55. www.ahclark.com. Reviewed by Abraham Hoffman.

This book is the first in a new series to be published by the Arthur H. Clark Company, "Early California Commentaries, 1697-1848." The series will focus on mainly previously unpublished primary sources dealing with California history in the Spanish and Mexican eras. Pedro Font's journal marks an excellent beginning for the series. Font accompanied Captain Juan Bautista de Anza on the trek from Sonora, Mexico to the Alta California missions and presidios, a journey that began on September 29, 1775, and ended on June 2, 1776. Some 240 soldiers, settlers, and servants went on this expedition, a group that included numerous women and children. Several babies were born on the trip. The expedition also took along livestock for the beginnings of ranchos and settlements.

Although Font was in theory representing the spiritual side of the expedition, he makes it clear that for much of the trip Anza either ignored or snubbed him, choosing not to listen to Font's advice and suggestions. Font was especially irritated by Anza's refusal to lend him the quadrant, an instrument essential in documenting the latitude and longitude of landmarks, villages, and other locations. Font paid close attention to his surroundings, carefully recording the distances traveled, relations with the Indian tribes they encountered, and numerous details that made up the everyday occurrences on the trek.

Alan K. Brown, a noted scholar and expert on 18th-century Spanish, correlated the three versions of Font's writings—the recently discovered field notes, the shortened "official" version, and the longer final text His translations effectively supplants the Font journal published by Herbert E. Bolton in 1930. Brown's scholarship is evident in his masterful 57-page introduction to the book in which he skillfully provides the historical context of the Ana expedition. Font's maps are reproduced along with modern maps, and 24 illustrations offer views of what Font described in his journal. Throughout the book Brown offers explanatory footnotes in which he reconciles differences in the three versions and explains Font's Spanish terminology.

Font did not write a tedious catalog of mundane activities. He wrote entries in his journal almost every day, and it seems that almost every day the expedition faced a crisis of some kind. This is an account of people experiencing very human virtues and faults. Readers who accept a textbook level of the Ana expedition will be surprised at the animosity between Anza and Captain Fernando Rivera y Moncada, the ongoing tensions between the priests and the soldiers, and the difficulties of finding their way through a largely unmapped, arid, and often hostile region. Font's appraisals of the Indians he encountered are candid and somewhat pessimistic, though he notes the expectations of some Indians, particularly Chief Palma, of the benefits the Spaniards might offer.

The book includes a useful appendix that compares Font's three versions and Anza's journal in measuring where they were on each day of the expedition; a bibliography listing manuscript sources, published primary sources, and books and articles; and an index. The Font journal marks an excellent beginning for what promises to be an important series on early California history.

SAN FRANCISCO LITHOGRAPHER: *African American Artist Grafton Tyler Brown* by Robert J. Chandler. Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 2014. 246pp. Illustrations, Notes, Bibliography, Index. Foreword by Ron Tyler, Afterword by Shirley Ann Wilson Moore. Checklist of G.T. Brown's works. Hardbound, $38.95. Reviewed by Brian Dervin Dillon.

Noted California historian Robert J. Chandler hits the literary bullseye with his new book on Grafton Tyler Brown. The effort is the product of a life-long interest in the man and his accomplishments and, most recently, of more than eight years of intensive research at a great many archives, libraries, and private collections. Chandler has already piqued our interest with short articles on Brown, most notably in the California Territorial Quarterly, but this is the definitive work on the artist that California cognoscenti have been anticipating for some time.

Chandler was the official historian of Wells, Fargo, & Company for many years, and few writers know as many of the unusual stories of old San Francisco, the urban magnet for the great western movement from the Gold Rush onwards. A "documents man" par excellance, Chandler's facility with lesser-known forms of evidence such as bank notes, sheet music covers, and tract maps led him to perhaps the most unique and productive creator of such 19th Century Western American ephemera: the draftsman, lithographer, commercial artist and landscape painter Grafton T. Brown.

Many books in one, between its two covers are, first and foremost, a scholarly and very readable biography of a man who would compel our interest at any time, and in any location. But it is also a thoughtful and compassionate study of race relations and racial definitions in the United States of America, and how these changed during the ante-bellum period, the Civil War years, and into the later 19th Century. Equally important is Chandler's consideration of the too-often ignored geographic element, for just as there was a sliding scale of racial tolerance from South to North, so was there a very different one from East to West. Finally, it is also a fascinating study of commercial art history, of lithography, and an insider's view of the specialized business of the engraver and job printer, with relevance not just to the American West Coast, but world-wide.

Chandler's mastery of these diverse subjects shines through on every page. A great benefit of the book is that you can read any of its different topical sections in any order you like, or simply proceed from its first to its final page as is customary with more pedestrian works of less diverse subject matter. Dozens of full-color illustrations, many at 100% of their original size, punctuate and amplify the test. The book's large format takes advantage of these illustrations, which, in many cases, have been taken from the author's own collection of Brown's work. Chandler is a wise and experienced enough writer to let his illustrations speak for themselves; organic to the text, they constitute one of the most appealing and memorable components of his book.

A growing number of California families are of mixed race, and Brown's story will be of particular interest to those of us within this category. The "mixed race" entry on Federal Census forms has only been introduced very recently, within our own lifetime. My own California family, a metaphor for the state as a whole, is about as "mixed" as it can be, incorporating White, Black, Asian and American Indian racial strains, none of them, anthropologically speaking, as important as its even more diverse cultural elements. Conversely, Grafton Tyler Brown (1841-1918), a man of very different times, was born "Black" but died "White." Could he have accomplished his remarkable journey back East, where two of his brothers, all their lives, were still classified as "Black?" Possibly, but his passage through the nearly-impenetrable racial barriers of his time was facilitated by his moving west to California, where then, as now, things thought impossible elsewhere could often be achieved.

Many white easterners, preoccupied with race as the predominant pre-requisite to social status, were confused and disturbed by what they found in California, for

here things were very different, much more Latin American than Yankee. The mid-19th century California population was the most racially mixed and ethnically diverse within the entire country. The original inhabitants, American Indians all, were still present in some numbers, while the ostensibly European group that replaced them, Californios, Mexicans and even a few Spaniards, was actually composed of Indian, White, Black, and mixed racial elements, including the dominant Mestizo (White and Indian) and minority Zambo (Black and Indian) strains. After the Mexican War, with the Gold Rush, came a tidal wave of Whites from the Eastern United States and Europe. Alongside them came tens of thousands of gold-seeking Chinese to California. Throughout most of the 19th Century, Blacks were few in number on the Pacific Coast, more a curiosity than anything else. Most of the racial hatred in California, fortunately for Brown, was focused upon the defenseless Chinese, and most racially-motivated beatings, murders and even lynchings were not of the sable sons of Africa, but of natives of Kwangtung.

But anti-Black prejudice certainly existed in California, and Grafton Tyler Brown's artistic skill was his ticket out of racial stereotyping. He was talented, innovative, hard-working, and amazingly productive. His primary competition in San Francisco during his most successful years was a firm employing no fewer than three artists specializing in different aspects of the production of lithographs and chromolithographs. Brown, a one-man-band, beat them at their own game all by himself. His ability to "pass" as White was owed in no small part to his incredible self-confidence and self-esteem, which came from his remarkable track record of original engravings, renderings, lithographs, chromolithographs, and oil paintings, not to mention his business acumen. Brown was an accomplished artist in his own right, but was also a supreme pragmatist. In doing commercial art, illustrating, and lithography, he supported his own fine art "habit" of landscape oil painting. Unlike other contemporary "struggling artists," putting bread on their tables and paint on their palettes by making horseshoes, shoveling out stables, or, at best, painting signs and advertisements on the walls of barns, Brown found that he could pay for his true love, the creation of fine art, by producing other art, designing checks, letterhead, sheet music, etc. He was a completely successful artist during his own lifetime; his secret was producing different kinds of art all the time instead of fine art only part time.

A solid core of American writers still believe that all history is biography, and a few publishers still continue to print books firmly rooted in historical humanism. California is lucky to have Chandler as one of its leading traditional historians, and residents of the Golden State are equally fortunate that the University of Oklahoma Press still publishes books on California history that some of our own publishing houses, too busy cranking out retro-sociological pseudo-historical works, no longer can or will publish. For two generations now the University of Oklahoma Press has been in the forefront of institutions publishing essential works for historians, anthropologists, even archaeologists, not just on California and the American West, but of historically-connected areas such as Mexico and Central America. Their long-running Civilization of the American Indian series has set the standard for all other University Presses in terms of coverage and breadth of study to emulate. Oklahoma has done it again with Chandler's outstanding new book on Grafton Tyler Brown, a necessary addition to the libraries of historians, art historians, and anthropologists alike.

Monthly Roundup . . .

December 2014

Gina Napolitan & Beaux Mingus Synopsis

Gina Marie Napolitan and Beaux Mingus are Los Angeles-based filmmakers and art educators with Master's Degrees in Film/Video from California Institute of the Arts. Together with first-generation Basque-American and PhD candidate in the Sociology program at UCLA Philippe Duhart, and historian Steve Bass, the crew created the film "Disappearing West," a documentary of the history of the Basque-American diaspora.

Gina gave a brief history of the Basque people and their culture. The Basques come from regions of Spain and France, but are altogether a separate and distinct ethnic group. The Basques have their own language, Basque, its origin uncertain. Most Basques are Catholic, but some have interwoven ancient folk beliefs. The common colors associated with the Basque people are red, white, and green.

Steve Bass spoke about Basques in America. Basques had come to the Americas with Columbus, and Basque immigration continued to trickle in until about the 1980s. Many areas of America under Spanish control were actually Basque, and that many famous Spaniards were Basque. Gold and the sheep herding industry also brought the Basque people to America.

They then showed us their film which gave a look into the daily lives of the Basque-America diaspora, also showcasing social clubs and intricate graffiti carvings on aspen trees along sheep grazing routes by Basque shepherds.

Finally, Philippe told us about his experiences as a Basque-American and the Basque clubs, and gave us a modern look into the Basque communities. The Basques have founded many clubs to participate in the Basque culture.

--Patrick Mulvey

January 2015

Jerry Gordon

Jerry Gordon was the guest speaker at the Westerners meeting for the month of January, where he gave a talk on Frank A. Miller and multiculturalism. Frank Miller was born in 1858 in Wisconsin and moved to Riverside, California in 1875. He was committed to helping those who were less fortunate them himself. Though his interest in the church was very limited, he was very spiritual and devoted to helping the community. He was interested in other communities, including the Native American, African American, and Asian American communities. He also had a profound interest in the Japanese culture. Locally, Miller helped the Haradas buy their house on Lemon Street despite a law limiting land ownership of alien immigrants.

Miller had a fascination with art from Asia, particularly Japan, and collected many pieces of art. Native Americans influenced Miller's childhood. He supported the assimilation of Natives through boarding schools, to transform them into working members of

mainstream society. Frank Miller helped resolve a water issue facing a Native American boarding school in Perris by having them move the school to Riverside. He also helped the African American communities and was a close friend of Booker T. Washington. Frank Miller was a prominent promoter of peace. In 1911, he held the Pacific Coast Peace Conference in the Mission Inn in Riverside. There were many famous attendees, including Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir, and the event was funded by Andrew Carnegie. Frank Miller was a very righteous man; he supported people very different from himself and his heritage. He passed away in 1935.

--Patrick Mulvey

February 2015

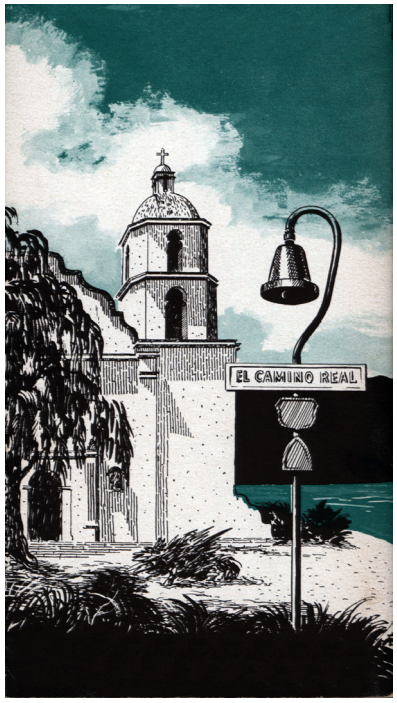
Barbara Schultz

Barbara Schultz is an aviation historian, pilot, and author of many books. This month at the Westerners she gave a presentation on aviation and the life of Moye W. Stephens, a famous aviator. Moye Stephens was born in 1906 and grew up in West Los Angeles. He was interested in flying at an early age, and took flight lessons at Rogers field. Eddie Bellande was Moye's instructor. Moye got his license in 1924 and went to Stanford. He became friends with Dick Ranaldi and the two did stunts in movies together. In 1928 Moye was hired as a captain for Maddux Airlines. He was then approached by Richard Halliburton who wanted him to be his pilot as they flew around the world. Moye agreed, and they set out in his Stearman C-3B biplane on an adventure that would be known as the Flying Carpet expedition. They started in London, and then flew to France, then down to Morocco in Africa. Once there, they flew across the Sahara desert to Timbuktu and stayed for two days.

Afterwards, they flew back to Europe to the Matterhorn and then to Cairo. From Cairo, they journeyed into the Middle East. While there, they flew the 16 year old prince of Baghdad for a joy ride. Often times when they would stop, Moye would do an air show where he landed. They continued on, visiting Tehran, Calcutta, and Istanbul. On their travels they met Elly Beinhorn, who then joined them on their journey. From Singapore to Nepal, from Mount Everest to the Taj Mahal, Moye and Halliburton continued their journey. They then traveled to head-hunter country and then to Manila, and finally back to California.

Afterwards Moye became a test pilot for new and experimental aircraft for the Northrop Corporation in the late 1930s. Planes he flew included the N-1M flying wing, the P-61 Black Widow and the A-31 Vengeance. After working for Northrop for many years he was inducted into the Northrop Hall of Fame. Moye Stephens passed away in 1995.

--Patrick Mulvey



Reversal of Fortune

By Pablo

In 1837, Governor Alvarado granted Don Ygnacio Palomares and Ricardo Vejar 47,130 acres (later incorrectly surveyed as 22,340 acres by Henry Hancock) that became Rancho San Jose. The Days of the Dons in the Pomona Valley had begun. Life was wonderful.

Riding a beautiful horse through the sage and the trees 1
And 2
Dressing in the splendor of Spanish grandees 3
Is my role in life, not 4
Preparing quarterly reports for corporate absentees. 5

After years of experience, I firmly believe 6
The Californio sense of honor and tradition 7
Will have more lasting value than 8
Book learning and academic erudition. 9

In my opinion, there is no disputing that 10
A man's word and a handshake pact 11
Carry much more meaning than 12
The precise terms of a written contract. 13

Any sharp business person will tell you 14
Paying fair prices and acting considerate 15
Yields a more gratifying transaction than 16
Making a slick deal when someone is desperate. 17

It should be obvious to anyone astute that 18
Living only off the bounty of the fields 19
Will lead to a more secure future than 20
Plowing every acre to maximize the yields. 21

If we look responsibly to the future, it is clear that 22
Open, natural, and undeveloped land 23
Will compose more vibrant communities than 24
Suburban developments that are meticulously planned. 25

I have faith in the future. I predict 26
The established patrimony of familia y hacienda 27
Will build a more robust economy than 28
Tight-fisted management with a profit agenda. 29

In 1863, Don Ricardo Vejar lost his share of Rancho San Jose in foreclosure. In 1864, Don Ygnacio Palomares died. The Days of the Dons in the Pomona Valley had ended. Life seemed to reverse itself.

Tight-fisted management with a profit agenda	29
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Open, natural, and undeveloped land.	23
If we look responsibly to the future, it is clear that	22
Plowing every acre to maximize the yields	21
Will lead to a more secure future than	20
Living only off the bounty of the fields.	19
It should be obvious to anyone astute that	18
Making a slick deal when someone is desperate	17
Yields a more gratifying transaction than	16
Paying fair prices and acting considerate.	15
Any sharp business person will tell you	14
The precise written terms of a written contract	13
Carry much more meaning than	12
A man's word and a handshake pact.	11
In my opinion, there is no disputing that	10
Book learning and academic erudition	9
Will have more lasting value than	8
The Californio sense of honor and tradition.	7
After years of experience, I firmly believe	6
Preparing quarterly reports for corporate absentees	5
Is my role in life, not	4
Dressing in the splendor of Spanish grandees	3
And	2
Riding a beautiful horse through the sage and the trees.	1

Dr. Gordon Bakken

January 10, 1943 - December 5, 2014

Gordon Morris Bakken, a longtime Westerner with the Los Angeles Corral and a noted historian and educator, passed away from cancer on December 5, 2014. Born January 10, 1943 in Madison, Wisconsin, Dr. Bakken earned his bachelor's degree in English and his master's and doctoral degrees in history and in law from his hometown University of Wisconsin. In 1969, he joined the faculty in the history department at California State University, Fullerton, where he remained for all of his 45-year career.

Dr. Bakken was truly a force of nature in his ever-present cowboy hat and broad smile and had an astounding list of accomplishments, achievements and activities. He was director of Faculty Affairs and Records, the Planning and Administrative councils and campus liaison to the CSU Office of General Counsel and CSU Office of Faculty and Staff Affairs. He established the campus chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta student history fraternity and edited its journal, The Welebaethan, with the chapter winning many awards. The university honored him by conferring emeritus status on Dr. Bakken in 2013. He also donated generously to many campus initiatives, including those for the Center for Oral and Public History, athletic programs, and the History Alumni Association, among others.

As a professor, he was widely known for his demanding reading lists; grade levels far below "F"; humorous stamps on tests and term papers; frequent digressions and stories about guns, hunting, soccer, baseball, his children and grandchildren, and myriad other topics; and his generosity in working with students (the author included, who was fortunate to have Dr. Bakken as his graduate advisor from 1997 to 1999).

In the wider field, he was a member of the Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Court Record; an editorial advisory board member for the California Historical Society; an advisory board member of the Committee on History of Law in California; a standing committee member for the State Bar of

California; vice-president of the California Supreme Court Historical Society and president of Phi Alpha Theta, the International History Honor Society—to name a few.

As a published historian, Dr. Bakken was remarkably prolific and diverse. Among his two-dozen books are The Development of Law in Frontier California: Civil Law and Society, 1850-1890; Women Who Kill Men: California Courts, Gender and the Press; and Invitation to an Execution. He published hundreds of articles in such publications as American Journal of Legal History, Nevada Historical Society Quarterly, Rocky Mountain Social Science Journal, and the Southern California Quarterly.

Among his awards in the profession are the 2009 Award of Merit and honorary life membership from the Western History Association and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Coalition for Western Women's History, bestowed on him in November 2014.

In his spare time, Dr. Bakken was a youth soccer coach and referee and a Little League coach, as well as being highly involved in his church, from serving as an usher to conducting bible studies.

On January 24 at California State University, Fullerton, a Celebration of Life was held, with well over two hundred persons in attendance, including family, friends, colleagues, former students and others. A few dozen audience members extolled Dr. Bakken's many contributions to the field of history; his work with graduate students; his church and sports volunteer work; and other endeavors. Dr. Graydon "Jack" Tunstall, executive director of Phi Alpha Theta, detailed how essential Dr. Bakken was in helping him put the organization on a solid financial and programmatic footing after near-failure. Dr. Jochen Burgtorf, professor of history at CSU Fullerton and vice-president of Phi Alpha Theta used abundant humor to detail aspects of Bakken's work. Daughter Angela Bakken Henderson regaled guests with stories of her father's career advice, encounters with dates, and other Bakkenisms. Several former graduate students, some showing great emotion, detailed the myriad ways Dr. Bakken helped them secure opportunities to present and publish their research. A former soccer player testified to the great impact he had on her on the field. The event left attendees feeling that Dr. Bakken had been taken far too soon, had much to still offer, and would be missed in so many ways.

Dr. Bakken is survived by his wife, Brenda Gail Farrington; his daughter, Angela Bakken Henderson; his son, Jeffrey Elwood Bakken; his daughter-in-law, Karma Kiang; and three grandchildren.

Those wishing to honor Dr. Bakken may make donations to the Gordon Bakken Book Fund for student scholarships (Checks payable to CSFPF, attention: Alina Mircea-Trotz, Directory of Development, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, H211) and the Phi Alpha Theta Gordon Morris Bakken Memorial Scholarship benefitting student research (Checks payable to Phi Alpha Theta, attention: Jochen Burgtorf, Cal State Fullerton History Department). Both can be mailed to: California State University, Fullerton, 800 N. State College Blvd., Fullerton, California 92834.

by Paul Spitzzeri

FROM OUR FILES

50 Years Ago
#72 March 1965

"November 17th [1964] meeting was held at Taix Cafe…. Speaker of the evening was John (Sky) Dunlap, who stands five foot twenty inches on the hoof, his subject was Henry Kuchel, early Orange County printer and publisher of the Anaheim Gazette, and father of Senator Kuchel…."

Two articles examined the life of mountain man Pauline Weaver, with a relative, Raymond Weaver offering a $100 reward for an authentic record of his birth.

25 Years Ago
#179 Spring 1990

In December 1989 the Corral held its last meeting of the year, its last meeting of the decade, and its last meeting at Taix Restaurant. Abe Hoffman spoke on "The Rebirth of Tumbleweeds," William S. Hart's final film.

The January 1990 meeting was the first held at Almansor Court, where the comments on the food "were generally favorable."

In February, the redoubtable Glen Dawson gave an illustrated talk on "Use of Rope in the High Sierra, 1927-1939."

Branding Iron editor Donald Duke tallied up the contributions for the past year and pointed out that 20% of the Honorary members had submitted an article or book review or helped in some other way with the quarterly. They were joined by 16% of the Active members, 6% of the Associate members (which meant just one), 2% of the Ranger Active members, and less than 1% of the Corresponding members.