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REVIEWS AND EXCHANGES**Mesa, Cañon, and Pueblo.**

By Charles F. Lummis. (New York, Century Company, 1925, 517 pp., ill., \$4.50)

The announcement of any book by Charles F. Lummis is sufficient to arouse lively anticipations. A new one on the Southwest by him is an event of high importance. Not every book that is called 'epoch making' can succeed in living up to such reputation; but the writings of Charles F. Lummis won that distinction more than a quarter of a century ago—and held it. That fascinating region has been well explored from the time of Coronado, and scientific and historic reports concerning it make sizable libraries. But in literary description of it, Lummis took the lead and has never been overtaken. It is safe to say that he never will be.

The thousands who read his 'Tramp Across the Continent,' 'Land of Poco Tiempo,' 'Some Strange Corners of Our Country,' now superseded by 'Mesa, Cañon and Pueblo,' and a dozen other works that came from his brain in those marvelously prolific days, have found everything else on the Southwest a bit disappointing. No other writer ever gave himself up to it as he did. There was his whole life for many years; and to it he has returned, from time to time, to find it the same inexhaustible source as in the old days.

As a result of his later excursions, there comes this new work, 'Mesa, Cañon and Pueblo,' and one does not need to read far to find that the master is still here. The best of the stories from the old classic, 'Some Strange Corners of Our Country,' are carried over into the new work, rewritten if there was any need for it. But not much that Lummis ever wrote has needed rewriting. The great amount of new material that has been added brings the book up-to-date and makes it a work that can never be displaced. There are parts

of the world in which no one would travel without a copy of Herodotus or Pausanias, and it will be so to the end of time. Likewise, it will be said of the traveler in the Southwest; he will not be equipped, be it centuries from now, without a copy of this latest book by Lummis, as well as some of the earlier ones.

E. L. H.

Memorial to the Robidoux Brothers

By Orral Messmore Robidoux, (Kansas City, Smith-Greaves Co., 1924. 311 pp., ill., \$5.00,

In the considerable group of French traders, trappers, and merchants who early became identified with New Mexico history were Louis and Antoine Robidoux. "In 1822 Joseph Robidoux of Blacksnake Hills and his two brothers, Antoine and Louis Robidoux, outfitted a caravan, and Antoine and Louis set out for the Southwest country and settled at Santa Fe, and for many years after their freight caravans traversed the plains between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Santa Fe with general merchandise to the Southwest, and buffalo, bear, elk skins and other pelts were transported to the Missouri River points and to St. Louis." "He (Antoine) was one of New Mexico's earliest gold miners, sinking \$8,000.00 He also was interpreter and guide with the Kearny overland column of 1846 to California, where his brother, who had preceded him by two years, was alcalde and juez de paz at San Bernardino."

"Antonio" Robidoux figures in the New Mexico archives as the purchaser at Santa Fe in 1834 of the "cerro del oro" mine; and there are frequent references to these brothers in such New Mexicana as Gregg's "Commerce of the Prairies," Bancroft's history, and Twitchell's "Leading Facts."

Such memoirs as are presented in this book are of especial value in the personal interest which they give to history, and the insight into conditions of the times.

L. B. B.

The Southwestern Trails to California in 1849

By Ralph P. Bieber, reprinted from the Mississippi Valley Historical Review, Vol. XII, No. 3, Dec., 1925.

Epic in its sweep is the story of the Southwestern Trails to California as told by Ralph P. Bieber, of Washington University and a Fellow of the Historical Society of New Mexico. By rather curious coincidence, just after his monograph was written, Mabelle E. Martin published an article on "California Emigrant Roads through Texas," discussing in greater detail the migration that passed through Texas. Both writers rely to considerable extent on diaries, newspapers of the day, and official documents, revealing how much interesting and half-forgotten history may be dug out of old newspaper files and letters. According to Bieber, "approximately 9000 forty-niners, constituting an important element in the early American settlement of California, reached the gold mines by way of southwestern trails." Several of these centered at Santa Fé whence three -- Cooke's wagon road, Kearny's Trail and the old Spanish Trail--gave a choice of roads. Says the author: "The main depot for supplies was Santa Fé, where a number of argonauts bought articles at high prices from merchants who trafficked over the old Santa Fé Trail. Santa Fé was a lawless town in '49. Drinking, gambling, and general rowdiness were the order of the day and night, to the great amazement of those who had been reared in less boisterous surroundings. Many emigrants participated in the local pastime of gambling, with the result that a number were relieved of what little funds they possessed, and a few became so poor 'that they were reduced to the necessity of selling their clothing, or even the likenesses of friends.' The New Mexican towns through which the overlanders traveled were very hospitable and entertained the visitors with fandangoes. These affairs furnished a pleasant and unique diversion for the weary travelers, who were always unstinted in their praise of the graceful dancing of the dark-eyed señoritas.

Most of the emigrants from Arkansas passed the vicinity of Santa Fé between May and August, and reached the gold mines of California in about seven or eight months."

The route of many lay through El Paso or farther south through Durango, Mexico. Speaking of those who passed through Mexico the author says: "Emigrants were delighted with some of the scenery along the way and showed much interest in the quaint customs and habitations of the natives, which were so different in many respects from their own. Some were even induced to remain in the country for a while to aid the inhabitants in their attempt to exterminate several of the warlike Indian tribes. A number of Texans who were thus employed by the state of Chihuahua had a rather unique contract which provided for remuneration on a commission basis, \$200 being paid them for every scalp of Apache Indians over fourteen years of age and \$100 each for all scalps of Apache under this age." No wonder the Apache was implacable in later years when on the warpath against the pale faces!

Says the writer, "Between the latter part of April and the middle of September about twenty-five hundred emigrants from at least ten states left western Missouri for California via the Santa Fe Trail. . . . The argonauts from Missouri passed the vicinity of Santa Fe between July and October, and were treated with the same hospitality by the New Mexican towns in the Rio Grande Valley as were the emigrants from Arkansas who had passed earlier in the year.

"Those who made the best time traveled to the northwest by way of the Great Salt Lake. The trails in this direction began at Santa Fe and Pueblo and extended to the northern route to California, joining it at various points between Fort Laramie and Salt Lake City. One of the most popular of these was the old Spanish trail from Santa Fe to Salt Lake City."

"More extensively traveled than the routes to the northwest were the trails to the southwest along the Gila River. By far the most popular of these was the wagon road made by Lieutenant Colonel Philip St. George Cooke and his Mormon Battalion between November, 1846, and January, 1847. Leav-

ing the Rio Grande at a point near the present town of Rincon, New Mexico, this road extended to the southwest across the Rio Mimbres and through the Guadalupe Pass to the San Pedro river. . . . Kearny's trail was used by a considerable number of emigrants. Well known to the fur traders ever since the early part of the nineteenth century, it had been followed by Kit Carson when he guided General Stephen W. Kearny and his 'Army of the West' from New Mexico to California between October and December, 1846. It left the Rio Grande a short distance north of the point where Cooke's road began, and proceeded west along the Gila River to the Pima Indian villages, where it was joined by Cooke's road and continued to California. Another trail used by a few emigrants extended west from Albuquerque to Zuñi, and thence southwest to the Gila by way of the valley of the Salt River."

Professor Bieber in the thirty pages of printed matter supplemented by a double page map, tells the story of the 49's with great restraint, there being an avoidance of dramatics and but mere reference to incidents that make the story of the Argonauts one of the most thrilling and dramatic in all history.

P. A. F. W.

The Colorado Magazine of January (1925) has a paper by L. R. Hafen discussing the "Early Mail Service to Colorado, 1858-60." The facts presented are based on sources to which the reader is referred. The relation of the subject to New Mexico is indicated: "The little embryo towns of Auraria and Denver on the South Platte were in the no-man's-land triangle between the two famous highways to the west—the Santa Fe and the Oregon trails. Eight years prior to the discovery of placer gold on the South Platte by W. Green Russell, monthly mail lines had been established from Independence, Missouri, to Salt Lake City and to Santa Fe respectively." As stated in footnotes, the postal route to Santa Fe was established in 1847, but service on this route was not begun

until 1850. An extended description of this route will be found in "The Overland Mail to the Pacific Coast, 1849-69" which, Dr. Hafen writes, is to be brought out by the A. H. Clark Company in the spring.

The October number of the Missouri Historical Review is notable for several articles covering the earlier periods of the state's history. Among the "Personal Recollections of Distinguished Missourians" is found one by Daniel M. Grisom on "Sterling Price." He controverts the impression created by eastern newspapers during the Civil War that General Price was uncouth in manner and uneducated. He was "tall and commanding in person, with frank and open features, he possessed a bearing and manners that placed him at ease in any company. He was not an orator, nor debater, but he never rose on any occasion nor in any presence to speak without securing perfect attention. Few men possess, in a higher degree than he possessed, the personal force and authority that subdues a turbulent assembly, and brings it to order." The writer states that General Price, like General Donovan and General Harney, was six feet two inches in height "and it might be said that three finer looking men could not be found in the world." Other articles having New Mexico interest include: "The Liberal Republican Movement in Missouri," "Early Gunpowder Making in Missouri," "The Osage War, 1837," "The Warrensburg Speech of Frank P. Blair," and a "Jim Bridger" anecdote, quoted from Adventure Magazine.

Mrs. Cyrus Beard, in Annals of Wyoming for October, in discussing early Wyoming history, gives various data regarding the Sublettes, Jim Bridger, Jedediah Smith, and Capt. Bonneville-- who may be the Col. B. L. E. Bonneville who was in Santa Fe in 1860 and was elected a member of the New Mexico society on Apr. 30th of that year. The notes on changes in prices for beaver skins are of value for comparison.