The Goose Hangs High

When, for the holidays, we shop in our well-stocked supermarkets, perhaps we should pause and sigh for the markets of a hundred years ago. Of the endless variety that meets our eyes today, nowhere will we see blue heron, wildcat, or five-foot cabbages, such as could be found in the New World or other markets, as described in the December 21, 1856, *Golden Era* of San Francisco.

“As the holidays approach, our markets grow plethoric. The Washington, the New World and the two Clay street Markets, now exhibit a most beautiful abundance of all the necessaries, delicacies and luxuries that the inner man needs, or the heart could desire.

... There are ducks, fat as butter—chickens,
Larkin Anniversary

THE MONTH of October, 1958, marks the one hundredth anniversary of the death of one of California's great pioneers—Thomas Oliver Larkin, first Consul of the United States to the Mexican province, and most important agent in seeking to secure its peaceful annexation.

After his service to the United States government at the close of the War with Mexico, Larkin turned to his own business and family interests, developing his extensive properties in Northern California. From the family home on Stockton Street in San Francisco, Larkin often journeyed up the Sacramento and elsewhere to supervise the management of his properties. While engrossed in these tasks, he was attacked by typhoid fever and died a week later, on October 27, 1858, when he was only 56 years old.

The Larkin Papers

THE SIXTH VOLUME of The Larkin Papers, currently being published at the University of California Press, should be available this December. Edited by Dr. George P. Hammond, the Bancroft Library's Director, this latest publication in his series of books reproduces the papers and correspondence of Thomas O. Larkin, U. S. Consul to California, 1847—a period in which Larkin was at the height of his career, both as a government official and private entrepreneur. In part, the letters and documents of these nine months offer details of Larkin's appointments by President Polk to the posts of Naval Agent and later of Naval Storekeeper in Monterey; also they reveal his activity in real estate speculation, especially in Benicia and San Francisco. The record of Larkin's daily life and his numerous official responsibilities with contacts with such prominent men as Stockton and Fremont presents a lively picture of California at a transitional stage of its history.

In pressing ahead to the completion of this vast editorial program of The Larkin Papers, Dr. Hammond and the University of California Press have assured us that one volume will be issued each year. The completed series of ten volumes will make this important and extensive collection of the Bancroft Library's Larkin materials accessible to scholars everywhere.

Carl Wheat

AN OPEN SECRET to the Friends is Carl Wheat's enduring love affair with the maps and mapmakers of the American West. Of that liaison have been born such enchanting brain children as The Maps of the California Gold Rush (San Francisco, 1942); 25 California Maps (San Francisco, 1948); Mapping the American West, 1500-1867, A Preliminary Study (Worcester, 1954); and (in association with Dale L. Morgan) Jedediah Smith and his Maps of the American West (San Francisco, 1954). His passion for maps, as he commented in an address delivered before the Bibliographical Society of America in 1956, grew out of an interest dating back to the days when he trailed his father and a burro through the byways of the Sierra Nevada and the Coast Ranges, Geological Survey quadrangles in hand; and it has led inevitably to the creation of the masterpiece now half completed, a five-volume work in folio size, Mapping the Transmississippi West, 1500-1866.

The appearance from the Grabhorn Press last year of the majestic first volume of this study, which describes the mapping of western America from Coronado's entrada to the Louisiana Purchase, with reproductions of 50 individual maps, was noted in the last issue of Bancroftiana. The second volume, just published, is fully as magnificent as the first, and may be even more warmly appreciated, for the period with which it is concerned, from Lewis and Clark to Fremont, has always generated a special excitement among aficionados of Western history. Altogether, 245 maps are described in detail in Volume Two (and many others noted in passing), of which no less than 58 are reproduced in whole or in part, one in full color. Outstanding for many will be the two chapters devoted to the cartographic fruits of the Lewis and Clark expedition, superbly illustrated by eight different maps, several of them scarcely known until now. A chapter on the cartographers of the British fur trade, David Thompson, Alexander Ross, William Kittson, and Peter Skene Ogden, is no less outstanding. There is fresh information on Pike, Long, and other Army cartographers; on the amazing Jedediah Smith, and on the early cartographers of the Santa Fe Trail and of Oregon; an always perspicuous account of the commercial cartographers, especially the Arrowsmiths of London and Henry S. Tanner of Philadelphia; and as a climax for this volume, a rare look at Fremont's maps.

The Friends will be happy to have so much of Carl Wheat between hard covers to brighten their lives and libraries, and will be happy, too, to learn that he is already well advanced on Volume Three, which will carry the story from the Mexican War through the era of the Gold Rush.

Mrs. Bancroft's Successor

THE UNTIMELY DEATH of Eleanor Bancroft two years ago left a vacancy on the Bancroft staff that was as hard to fill as her loss was widely mourned. Gifted with a capacity for friendship that disarmed everyone, and endowed with natural keenness, she occupied a unique place in the organization of the Library. To find a successor has not been an easy task, but now the search is ended; Dr. Jaquelín S. (Jim) Holliday has been appointed Assistant Director and also head of the Manuscripts division. Possessed of similar qualities of friendliness and ability, he
will not only fill the void left by Mrs. Bancroft's death, but will give the position new force and drive. His genial smile, ready wit, and specialized knowledge of Western and California history make him a welcome addition to Bancroft's official family. For his doctoral degree he submitted a dissertation on "The California Gold Rush as Myth and Reality," and he is further elaborating his researches in a book, Pocket Full of Rocks, soon to be published by Houghton Mifflin.

Annual Meeting of Friends of Bancroft Library

The Friends of the Bancroft Library held their Eleventh Annual Meeting in the Reading Room of the Bancroft Library on Sunday afternoon, May 4, with an overflow attendance of Friends and visitors. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Guy Gilchrist, chairman of the Friends. The address of the afternoon was given by Dr. Lawrence Clark Powell, librarian of the University of California Library at Los Angeles and director of the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, Los Angeles.

In his address, "Landscapes and Bookscapes," Dr. Powell conveyed his deep affection for the West, and the manner in which books, or "bookscapes"—to use the word he coined—lend meaning and depth to its interpretation. He spoke with respect and admiration of the Bancroft Library's extraordinary reserve book and manuscript materials on California and the West and praised the policy of a non-circulating collection, to which a scholar may come at any time assured that he will find the material he seeks.

Following the Annual Meeting the Library was transformed into an Open House. Among the exhibits arranged for the occasion were letters of Don Gaspar de Portola, donated by the Friends; selected items from the Reville Gidago papers, donated by Irving W. Robbins, Jr.; manuscripts of George Sterling's poems, a donation of Warren Howell; rare first edition copies of Bret Harte's Lack of Roaring Camp, Dana's Two Years Before the Mast, and Henry George's Progress and Poverty, gifts of Perc S. Brown; letters of Gelett Burgess, originator of the famous Goops; selections from the Bancroft Memorial Collection; and various items from the papers of Samuel P. P. Parkman—an associate of Jedediah Smith—who migrated to Mexico in the 1870's and made his home thereafter in Mexico.

The next day at the meeting of the Council of the Friends of the Bancroft Library the following officers were re-elected: Guy Gilchrist, Chairman; Michael Harrison, Vice-Chairman; Miss Virginia Thickens, Secretary; Malcolm W. Moss, Treasurer. Other members of the Council are:

- Mrs. Anne Bancroft
- Joseph M. Branden
- Perc S. Brown
- Joel E. Ferris
- George P. Holland
- George L. Harding
- Edward H. Heller
- Warren R. Howell
- Mrs. Gerald D. Kennedy
- V. Aubrey Nesham
- Mrs. Edna M. Parratt
- Mrs. Alice L. Toulmin

Welcome to California Alumni

Readers of the California Monthly, organ of the California Alumni Association, will find in the November issue a lively and enthusiastic account of the Bancroft Library and the role of the Friends in furthering its growth and development. This article is part of an elaborate program planned by our Friends to gain new members. Early in December about 50,000 alumni will receive an attractive brochure outlining the history and purpose of the Bancroft Library and inviting interested alumni to share in its support by becoming members of the Friends.

The general plan and details of this "drive" were worked out by Joseph M. Branden, Chairman of our Membership Committee, James D. Hart, Vice-Chancellor, and George P. Hammond, our Director, in cooperation with O. Cort Majors, Past President of the California Alumni Association; Mortimer Smith, President of the Association; and Richard E. Erickson, editor of the California Monthly. Funds for the printing and mailing of the brochures have been generously furnished by an anonymous donor. We look forward to the loyal support of the California Alumni and hope to welcome many new Friends of the Bancroft Library as a result of this far-reaching undertaking.

Orinda's New Library

The dedication of the new Orinda Public Library on November 14th marked the culmination of the efforts of our Friend, Perc S. Brown, eminent bibliophile and benefactor of libraries, who directed the fund-raising campaign which made possible construction of the handsome building. Erected on a one and one-half acre site at a cost of $120,000, the new library contains shelf space for 15,000 books, and replaces the former inadequate quarters in the basement of the Community Church. It will remain a part of the Contra Costa County Library System, which provides the staff and will make available an increased number of books. We extend our warmest congratulations to Perc S. Brown (recently re-elected Chairman of the Orinda Library Board), and to the residents of Orinda who responded so generously to his leadership in this community project.

At the evening dedication ceremonies, Vice-Chancellor James D. Hart delivered an address. After paying tribute to "this truly magnificent community library, handsome in its architecture and its facilities," Dr. Hart reviewed the history of public libraries, and emphasized their importance as "a major institution of education for democratic living." He concluded with a quotation from John Cotton Dana: "No other institution which society has brought forth is . . . so fit to teach without arrogance, the ignorant—and without faltering, the wisest."

"Dutch Flat" Day

The second meeting of the Friends this year was held in one of the most interesting mining towns of the Mother Lode. Mr. and Mrs. Guy Gilchrist, long-time summer residents of Dutch Flat, invited the Friends for a social gathering at their place on Saturday, August 16. Their comfortable home, nestled on a hillside against a forest of pine trees and overlooking the historic old town, was a perfect setting for an informal gathering, and the gracious hospitality of the Gilchests made it a memorable day for their many Friends. Some guests enjoyed swimming in the pool and strolling through the town to see the sights—the old hearse, carefully preserved down to the black plumes that adorn it, the pioneer fire-fighting equipment, the old cemetery; others enjoyed the comfort of the porch and patio, visiting with old and new friends.

Early in the afternoon a bounteous outdoor buffet lunch was served, followed by informal speeches and stories. Mrs. Gilchrist gave an account of the beginnings of Dutch Flat, the origin of its name, a description of the town in its heyday as a mining center, the coming of the railroad, and the town's prosperity until the outlawing of hydraulic mining. Professor John D. Hicks, a summer resident of Dutch Flat, and Francis P. Farquhar related some spirtly stories, which gave added enjoyment to the guests.

The Friends appreciated, too, the hospitality of other residents of the town. Dr. and Mrs. G. F. Stookey, of Berkeley, who own the old hotel, held "open house" for the day. Built in 1852, the hotel is the most colorful and probably the most photographed building in town, and the Stookeys, who maintain it as a summer home, have carefully retained its original furnishings and atmosphere. Among the other residents who opened their homes were Miss Georgea A. Wiseman, owner of Vista Inn, and the Wayburs and the Hicks, both neighbors of the Gilchests.

Let us hope that these delightful fall gatherings—the one last year at the Cobletz's (Temelec Hall) in Sonoma County and this year's outing at the Gilchests' in Placer County—will become regular features of the year's activities of the Friends.

Annual Report

The Director's Annual Report of the Bancroft Library for the year 1957-58 is now ready for distribution among interested Friends. It is a detailed account of the year's work, with descriptions of notable acquisitions, notes on staff activities, an analysis of the needs of the Bancroft Library, and a record of the year's activities of the Friends. There are also statistical records of the Library's holdings and its processing and circulation of materials, reflecting the many varied
activities of its growth and efforts made to meet the requirements of its client. Members who receive a copy are asked to send a postal card to the Director (Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley 4, California), and copies will be sent as long as the supply lasts.

Joel E. Ferris
So varied are backgrounds, accomplishments, and interests, that a composite picture of a Friend of the Bancroft Library would be difficult to draw. But this they all have in common: a love for history in all its manifestations, energy, enthusiasm, and the ability to combine many diverse loyalties to the common benefit of all.

We are led to these reflections in contemplating one Friend in particular, Joel E. Ferris of Spokane, Washington, who has been a member of the Council since 1953, has enabled Bancroft to acquire a number of outstanding acquisitions, and at the same time has served effectively as president of the Eastern Washington Historical Society.

Ferris was born in Carthage, Illinois, in 1874, the son of Hiram Gano Ferris, a California pioneer of 1850, whose letters he published in the California Historical Society Quarterly in 1947. After obtaining his A.B. from the University of Illinois in 1895, he entered the field of investment banking, of which he made a busy and successful career, first at Kansas City, Missouri, and subsequently at Spokane; since 1946 he has been Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Spokane and Eastern Branch, Seattle-First National Bank. To describe his total involvement in the commercial and social life of the Northwest, several issues of Bancroftiana would scarcely suffice. The way he has been able to unite his business life with a profound love of history is, however, suggested by an interesting and scholarly article on early Washington banking contributed to the just-published fiftieth-anniversary issue of Western Banker (October, 1958).

But Ferris has much more far-ranging interests; for years he has contributed several articles to the Pacific Northwest Quarterly and the Spokane Spokesman-Review which touch every phase of the local history of eastern Washington and his adopted city, Spokane, and we look forward to the day when he will gather them up in book form. He has also been instrumental in promoting the building of an impressive home for the Eastern Washington Historical Society, construction of which is about to begin, after previously having worked with the building fund.

Wyatt Earp
Our playful piece in the last Bancroftiana, pointing out some of the discrepancies between television's Wyatt Earp and the man himself, as reflected in several dictations in the Bancroft Library, has brought forth some pleasant remarks from Stuart N. Lake of San Diego. Lake published in 1931 the standard biography, Wyatt Earp, Frontier Marshal, the old frontiersman having devoted the closing months of a long life to giving him "a factual account of his career." Lake writes:

The set of Bancroft's Works, for which Wyatt Earp subscribed as reported in your April No. 18, is in my library. Wyatt gave it to me in 1928, while I was working on his biography. The books were in storage at the time—the Earps had closed their house—but Mrs. Earp shipped the set to me after Wyatt's death in 1929.

As for Luke Short: Ab Webster, not Larry Dugger, was the business rival who made trouble for Luke in Dodge City. You might be surprised to learn how well and widely read some of our frontier characters were.

Lindley Bynum
From the Los Angeles to the Davis campuses of the University of California, the retirement this summer of Lindley Bynum as Special Assistant to the President has been noted with expressions of regret at his leaving and praise of his many years of unique service. While it is safe to assume that Mr. and Mrs. Bynum welcomed this chance to pursue their many interests from the comfort of their new home in the Napa Valley, the Bancroft Library will miss 'Pink's' friendly visits and most of all his valuable aid and guidance in the building of our resources.

Of the many collections he was instrumental in bringing to the Bancroft Library, we remember especially those of Thomas W. Norris, Hiram Johnson, Porter Garnett, General E. O. C. Ord, and the Virginia and Truckee Railway.

We hope for Pink that the years ahead will be filled with the zest and fullness of living that we feel to be his trademark, and that while he may not officially be a part of the University staff, he will continue to act as an unofficial representative of the Bancroft Library and help extend its usefulness, which is our goal.

Zamorano-Roxburgh Club Meeting
On September 20th and 21st, the Zamorano Club of Los Angeles played host to the Roxburgh Club of San Francisco. This was the fourth joint meeting of these two book-collecting clubs, and like its predecessors, it was a great success. About thirty Roxburghers journeyed south, armed with enough printed matter in the form of keepsakes to fill a sized truck. Nor had their hosts been idle in this respect, for they matched these keepsakes with a collection of their own, all of which were presented to members of both clubs at the Saturday night banquet.

The festivities began with a buffet luncheon at the charming home of Mr. and Mrs. Ward Ritchie's house in Flintridge Club Meeting. The dinner meeting, held that evening at the Annandale Golf Club in Pasadena, was a great success. About thirty Roxburghers journeyed to the home of Professor John Haskell Kemble, who showed us his fine collection of nautical pictures. Later, refreshments— and they were badly needed in the overly-warm weather—were served in the Faculty Club by David Davies, Librarian at Claremont.

The dinner meeting, held that evening at the Annandale Golf Club in Pasadena, was a delightful affair, though the pleasure was somewhat overshadowed by the absence of Albert Shumate, Master of the Press, who was taken ill in the morning and rushed to the hospital. David Magee of San Francisco substituted for him, while the Zamorano Club was represented by Dwight L. Clarke. The speakers of the evening were Fred Wemmer, Librarian of the Sacramento County Library, and John Pomfret, Director of the Huntington Library and Art Gallery, both of whom gave happily-conceived pictures of California 10,000 years hence.

The next day, Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Adams gave a luncheon at their home in San Marino where members of both clubs were overwhelmed by the wealth of Western paintings which their host showed them. Replete with good food and wine and memories of Russell bronzes, the company left for Los Angeles and the Southwest Museum, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Dentzel, and a farewell dinner in the pleasant atmosphere of Spanish-California at the nearby Casa Adobe.

The weather was a little unkind, but this was only a tiny flaw in an otherwise perfect weekend.

"The Bubble Bursted"
Increasingly rare and prized by collectors are the illustrated lettersheets which were so popular in California during the 1850's. Having the same appeal as the postal card today, they often served better than the writers' own descriptions to reveal to their families and friends "back in the States" the sights and scenes of life in El Dorado. Indeed, as Harry T. Peters suggested in his classic California on Stone, the artists whose work was reproduced on the lettersheets were "the reporters, cameramen, and newscnell men of the time."

These lettersheets, vivid and important pictorial records of a colorful era in California history, have long been collected by the Bancroft Library, and recently we were fortunate in acquiring 36, all in near-mint condition. They range in mood and subject from humorous cartoons entitled "Mr. Gringo's Experience as a Ranchero" and "Balloo Box Stuffers electing their Men" to dramatic views of
“The Fire in Sacramento City [1852]” and scenes of steamship explosions. Portraits of David C. Broderick and Colonel E. D. Baker are of special interest in the light of the rarity of portraiture in California lithography at this time. Town views of San Francisco, Jamestown, Sonora, Springfield, and La Porte are of historical value, while a commemorative piece celebrating “the successful laying of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable,” dated September 27, 1858, suggests an incongruous symbolism that foreshadows in a sense the United Nations of a century later in portraying two horse-drawn “cars carrying one hundred and twenty little girls, uniformly dressed in white, representing all the States and principal European nations.”

The most colorful and in some ways most artistic of these lettersheets are those with kaleidoscopic scenes, entitled “Crossing the Plains to California,” “Winter in the Mines,” and “Life Among the Miners.” There are, of course, illustrations of the Vigilance Committees’ activities and scenes of mining methods. More unusual are several pieces relating to the Fraser River gold rush—a “Miner’s Map . . .,” with a table of distances from San Francisco to “the gold bearing country”; a basic vocabulary of “Chinook jargon”; and an amusing broadside of cartoons entitled “The Fraser River Thermometer” with a poem, “The Bubble Burst ed.”

Our Keepsakes

Our keepsake volume, The Mariposa Indian War, 1850–1851, the second of the diaries of Robert Eccleston to be issued by the Friends, was printed by the University of Utah Press. We are pleased to announce that it was chosen by the Rounce and Coffin Club as one of the finest examples of printing craftsmanship produced in the Far West during 1957–58.

Distribution of our forthcoming keepsake, Stockton Boyhood, the reminiscences of C. Ewald Grunsky, was announced earlier this year, but because of unforeseen circumstances the publication has been delayed. It is now in page proof and should soon emerge from the printer’s shop—with its fonts of type and barrels of ink—as a thing of pristine beauty and excellence. Edited by the noted civil engineer’s daughter, Mrs. Clotilde Grunsky Taylor, illustrated by Grunsky’s own drawings, and printed by Lawton Kennedy, the book promises to be another outstanding publication of the Friends.

Exploring with Fremont

A long-sought manuscript, discovered in a German attic several years ago, was presented to the United States Library of Congress by the Amerikanische Gedenkbibliothek, Berlin, in 1954. It contains the personal diaries of Charles Preuss, Frémont’s cartographer for his First, Second, and Fourth Expeditions. Written for his wife and relatives, the diaries reveal with dramatic clarity the intimate story of the First (1842) and Second (1843–1844) Expeditions, for which we previously had only Frémont’s carefully edited account. The ill-fated Fourth Expedition, on which Frémont attempted to cross the Rocky Mountains of southern Colorado in the dead of winter—and met with disaster—is vividly described.

The manuscript was translated and edited by our Friends, Erwin and Elisabeth Gudde, and was recently published by the University of Oklahoma Press in their Exploration and Travel Series under the title, Exploring with Frémont.

New Friends

We welcome, as new Friends of the Bancroft Library who have joined since April, 1958:

- Bynum, Lindley
- Colby, Mrs. Henry V.
- Crawford, Mrs. Lora
- Gillhouse, Mrs. Eva
- Holliday, Mr. and Mrs. J. S.
- Hooper, Mrs. Joseph G.
- McLaughlin, Donald H.
- Majors, O. Cort
- Mel, Miss Marian L.
- Mosher, Samuel B.
- Pauley, Edwin W.
- Porter, John E.
- Redfield, Mr. and Mrs. John A.
- Ricarda, Miss Ana
- Roush, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll J.
- Smith, Mortimer
- Taylor, Jr., H. Walker
- Tucker, Marshall B., M.D.
- Welch, Mrs. Marguerite E.
- Wilder, Louis Stoddard
- E. K. Wood Lumber Company

St. Helena
Berkeley
McLaughlin, Donald H.
San Francisco
San Francisco
San Francisco
San Francisco
Berkeley
Los Angeles
Los Angeles
San Francisco
Tennyson, N. J.
New York, N. Y.
Berkeley
Oakland
Oakland
Oakland
San Francisco
San Francisco