

BANCROFTIANA

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

No. 47

October 1970

23rd Annual Meeting

ON A SUNNY Berkeley afternoon, May 24th, the Friends convened in The Playhouse, Zellerbach Hall, to meet the new Director, Professor James D. Hart, and to hear the famed author George R. Stewart speak on a subject of great current interest, "Historical Attitudes toward the California Environment." Dr. J. S. Holliday, Chairman of the Friends' Council, presided, and was accompanied on the platform by Chancellor Roger W. Heyns, University Librarian James E. Skipper, and Professors Hart and Stewart.



*Professor George R. Stewart
and Mrs. Robert H. Becker*

During the course of the short business meeting, the Chairman expressed the Friends' great appreciation to the retiring members of the Council, and Treasurer Theodore Meyer's report attested to the good financial health of the organization, with a cash balance of nearly \$25,000.

Francis P. Farquhar, charter member of the Friends and first Chairman of its Council,

spoke briefly and again enriched the library by yet another gift, a prized silver statuette of Sir Francis Drake, depicted as he landed at Plymouth upon his return from the globe-encircling voyage of 1577-80. One of three known copies of the large bronze original at Plymouth and the only one outside England, the statuette will soon be housed in the Bancroft's reading room, alongside the famed Plate of Brass which Drake left on the California coast during this same voyage.

Delivering his first report as Director of the Bancroft, Professor Hart bespoke his appreciation to the Friends for their support, complimented the staff for its devotion and zeal during the past few years especially, and explained the new program of administratively coordinating the various related units embraced in the library's field of activity. He thanked Mrs. Edward H. Heller, a long-time member of the Council, and her children, for their splendid gifts that will enable the University to enlarge the Bancroft's quarters, provide more effectively for preservation of its materials, and give better service to the scholars and students who come to use its resources.

In his vigorous and illuminating address, Professor Stewart gave historical examples of the exploitation and utilization of the environment by both man and animals in their efforts to survive. Modern man, we were reminded, is by no means the only agent to be accused of exploitation; he has, however, led in efforts toward the preservation, conservation and improvement of his environment.

This year's keepsake represents a further labor on the part of Professor Stewart, for he has written a special foreword to *A Visit to*

California in 1841. As Recorded for Hubert Howe Bancroft in an Interview with Joseph B. Chiles. The volume was mailed to the Friends shortly after the meeting.

Following Professor Stewart's remarks, the meeting was adjourned to The Bancroft Library, where refreshments were served and the Friends and their guests enjoyed the special exhibition prepared for the occasion by the staff. Specially honored by the displays was George R. Stewart, who has presented his own papers as well as his fine personal library to the Bancroft, a further token of his great affection for the University of California, on whose faculty he has served since 1923, and for the Bancroft, on whose resources he has drawn for several of his books.

New Council Members

THE COUNCIL OF THE FRIENDS welcomes its three new members and wishes to introduce them to our readers.

Mrs. Calvin K. Townsend of San Jose is an alumna of the University of California, Class of 1924, and has served as a member of the state board of the California League of Women Voters. She is a founding member of the Family Service Association and the Visiting Nurse Association, both of San Jose, and has been writing a history of the Mallacomes Grant, Sonoma County, on which she and Mr. Townsend own a home called "The Winery."

Mr. Harold G. Schutt of Lindsay retired in 1961 as Plant Superintendent of the Lindsay Ripe Olive Company, and is the editor of *Los Tulares*, publication of the Tulare County Historical Society. He is a founder of the Conference of California Historical Societies, served as its second president, and is vice-chairman of the Tulare County Museum.

Mr. Norman H. Strouse of St. Helena, proprietor of the Silverado Press, recently established the Vailima Foundation which supports the Silverado Museum, St. Helena, wherein are displayed the Robert Louis Stevenson manuscripts, books, letters and other memorabilia which he has collected over a period of years. In 1968 he retired as Chairman of the Board of the J. Walter Thompson Company.

Membership Drive

AS ANNOUNCED in the last issue of *Bancroftiana*, a vigorous drive to gain new members for the Friends was begun under the capable direction of Mrs. Gerald H. Hagar. We are pleased to bid welcome in these pages to the 286 new Friends who have brought our total membership to 1,420. Among these new Friends are nine institutional members, a new class of membership, representative of California's major business enterprises—

Bank of America, N.T. & S.A.
The Bank of California
Crocker-Citizens National Bank
Fireman's Fund American Insurance Companies
Levi Strauss & Company
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company
Standard Oil Company of California
Wells Fargo Bank

Our readers may be interested in knowing the sub-totals for the several types of membership listed in our last issue—

Patron, 5 Supporting, 158
Sustaining, 25 Regular, 1,232

The Friends might wish to remember that an ideal Christmas gift is a membership in this organization which so vitally supports the program of The Bancroft Library.

Governor Manuel Victoria

ORIGINAL MATERIALS from Mexican California are not now easy to find, and we count ourselves fortunate to have acquired by purchase earlier this year thirty-five documents concerning Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Victoria, *Jefe Político* of Alta California during the period 1830-32. Of special interest in the collection is Victoria's draft of his report to the Secretary of State of Mexico, written at San Blas, February 5th, 1832, outlining the events in Alta California which led to his expulsion, and giving an account of the final days of his administration and of the Battle of Cahuenga. Although Hubert Howe Bancroft described Victoria's administration in some detail, his sources were largely from accounts recorded many years later, and almost entirely biased

against the Governor; this new documentation is, thus, doubly welcome.

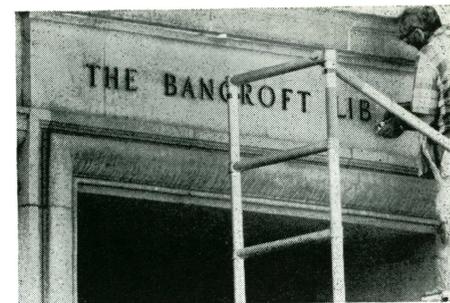
Having entered the army of the king of Spain in 1815, Victoria joined the forces of Agustin Iturbide in 1821 and distinguished himself as Commander of the Port of Acapulco, and as chief military and political officer of Baja California. His two years as Governor of Alta California were marked by conspicuous lack of success. "More of a soldier than a politician," according to Bancroft, Victoria attempted to govern by arbitrary decrees, refused to convene the territorial legislature, and banished prominent citizens who were opposed to him, notably Abel Stearns and José Antonio Carrillo.

By the middle of 1831, revolt began to brew in both north and south; in November, Victoria marched south from Monterey with a force of twenty-three men, confronting the rebels, who numbered more than 150, in the San Fernando Valley, near Cahuenga. Shots were fired, two men, one from each side, were killed, Victoria was seriously wounded, and the rebels fled. The soldiers carried the Governor to Mission San Gabriel, where, because of his wounds, on December 9th he sought safe-conduct to return to Mexico.

New Home for The Bancroft Library

TO ACCOMMODATE its new divisions—the Rare Books Collection and the Mark Twain Papers—and its augmented collecting program, The Bancroft Library is soon to have added space so that we may all share one stack, one reading room, and common space for offices and technical services. The Bancroft will receive almost all of that floor of the Library Annex of which it now occupies but a part, and it will also obtain much-needed additional stack space. This new area will be combined with the old in a thorough-going remodeling. As a first step, The Bancroft Library is now designated in bronze lettering over the main entrance to the Library Annex.

Funds and actively interested support to achieve this great change have been provided in the largest, most generous single gift ever



presented to The Bancroft Library. This gift comes from Regent Elinor Heller, a Council member of the Friends, and from her son Clarence, as contributions to the Centennial Fund drive. These gifts were made in memory of Edward H. Heller, Mrs. Heller's husband and Clarence Heller's father, himself a distinguished Regent of the University and also at one time a valued member of the Council of the Friends. In addition, Mrs. Heller's three children—Alfred Heller, Clarence Heller, and Elizabeth Heller Mandell—made another gift in honor of her recent birthday that is also to be used to aid the remodeling. For three generations, members of the Heller family have been outstanding friends of the University and of the Library. Now they have offered to Bancroft the possibility of having a home suitable to the stature of its collections.

To prepare for that remodeled home by learning how other rare book and special libraries were constructed and functioned, Professor Hart made an extended trip in which he visited the Houghton Library at Harvard, the Beinecke Library at Yale, the New York Public Library, the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts Library, the Pierpont Morgan Library, the Library of Congress, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Smithsonian Institution, the Clifton Waller Barrett Library of the University of Virginia, the Humanities Research Center of the University of Texas, the Newberry Library, and the Northwestern University Library. From them he derived many ideas that were then discussed with all members of The Bancroft Library before a statement of needs and desires was framed for our architect, Mr. Walter Costa of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill.

As actual plans develop, further reports will

follow in *Bancroftiana* until the day when we can look forward to a grand opening of a re-modeled and greater Bancroft Library.

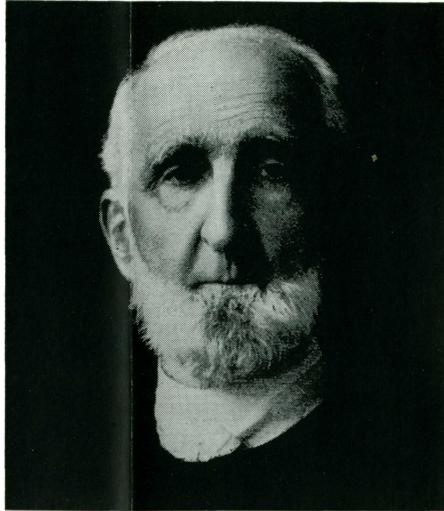
Frank Norris Centennial

THE FRIENDS AND THEIR FRIENDS gathered on the afternoon of April 5th for the screening of Erich von Stroheim's *Greed*, a film of 1924 based on Norris' *McTeague*, followed by a viewing of a special exhibition of Norris manuscripts, books and memorabilia and by the reception in The Bancroft Library. A keepsake issued to mark the occasion, *Frank Norris Petitions the President and Faculty of the University of California*, containing commentary by Professor Franklin Walker of Mills College along with a facsimile of the petition, was handsomely printed by Lawton and Alfred Kennedy and distributed to the Friends. Any who did not receive one may do so by writing to the Secretary.

Included among the celebrants was the son of Norris' widow, Mr. Frank Preston of Jacksonville, Oregon, who attended with his wife and daughter. It was in Mr. Preston's attic that the Bancroft's new Director discovered, more than a dozen years ago, a cache of Frank Norris manuscripts, including the themes which the young writer composed during his year at Harvard, 1894-95. In further commemoration of the centenary of Norris' birth, the themes have just been published by the Harvard University Press in a volume entitled *Frank Norris: The Making of a Novelist*, edited by Professor Hart.

The Randolphs of California and Virginia

OVER A PERIOD OF several months, The Bancroft Library, through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. G. Metcalf Simonson, has been the grateful recipient of a valuable archive spanning three generations of Randolphs, particularly exciting in that each successive gift revealed yet another facet of a distinguished and far-flung family. The collection, primarily correspondence of the Reverend Thomas Lyman Randolph (pictured here) with parents



Thomas Lyman Randolph

and relatives, reflects life in Rhode Island, Virginia and California, from 1826 to 1904.

Richard Kidder Randolph and his wife Anne Maria Lyman, while residing in Rhode Island, maintained close ties with their Virginia relatives, and their letters provide an interesting account of life in Providence and Newport. One of their sons, Thomas Lyman, taught in Virginia for a short while before taking up his religious duties nearer home. His letters from Virginia relate in detail his delight in meeting members of the family. Thomas Lyman Randolph's career as an Episcopalian minister led him from Rhode Island to various churches in New York State—Trumansburg, Sherburn and Syracuse. A visit to California in 1885 later brought him to the pastorate of St. Daniels in Alameda in 1890, a post he retained until his death fourteen years later.

Another son, Benjamin Harrison Randolph, came to California in 1850 to found the firm of Randolph and Lipman on Front Street, San Francisco. In his letters he describes commercial life in both San Francisco and Stockton, comments on mines and mining in California, Oregon and Nevada, tells of Chinese miners and laborers, mentions his religious and political activities, points out the discovery of petroleum in southern California in 1865, and relates his many voyages to and from the east coast via Panama and later by transcontinental railroad. Anne Matthieu Randolph, who

joined her husband in 1854, often commented more fully on San Francisco life—a Fourth of July parade, the failure of Page & Bacon, the activities of Edmund Randolph in the Walker Expedition in Nicaragua, the earthquakes of 1865 and 1866, and, too, upon her husband's efforts in establishing the Berkeley School for the Deaf and Dumb.

Daniel Lyman Randolph, one of Thomas Lyman's sons, was sent to his San Francisco uncle to regain his health and to learn about the business world. His letters detail his various ventures in banking and real estate in the Bay area, and comment on commercial prospects and on the Chinese labor problem. He mentions meeting General Henry W. Halleck (a very unassuming person, he says) and also describes downtown San Francisco in 1867. Daniel's wife, Caro Raymond, while portraying the domestic life of that era, proffers information on local politics, the election of Washington Bartlett in 1880 as freeholder to frame a charter for San Francisco, and the Kearney boycott of Chinese laborers in 1882.

This rich collection is further enhanced by nineteen volumes of diaries of Thomas Lyman Randolph, by genealogical information, and by portraits of several members of the family.

Allan Seager Papers

"YOU HAVE RESERVOIRS of themes, finished craftsmanship, a temperament with rainbow prisms over it and this is only to say I'm proud I've known you and glad we are Michigan farmers and neighbors with enough like prejudices and viewpoints to make talk come easy and time pass fast. . . ." So wrote Carl Sandburg to his friend Allan Seager, after reading Seager's first novel, *Equinox*, in 1944. Sandburg's letter is part of the substantial file of Seager's correspondence, journals, diaries and literary manuscripts which the Library recently purchased from the novelist's widow. As additions to the collection, Mrs. Joseph Henry Jackson has presented as a gift her husband's correspondence with Seager concerning the brochure about the novelist which Jackson wrote for Simon and Schuster in 1953, and Armitage Watkins, Seager's agent, has presented his very extensive correspondence with



Allan Seager

the novelist, covering the period from 1944 to Seager's death.

Born in 1906, Seager was graduated from the University of Michigan and attended Oxford University as a Rhodes scholar. In May, 1934 the second of his published short stories (and perhaps the one for which he has been best remembered), "This Town and Salamanca," appeared in the English journal *Life and Letters*. Almost all of his fiction, including the five full length novels, is set in his native Middle West, where he continued to reside, as Professor of English at the University of Michigan, until his death in 1968.

The manuscripts for four of his novels—*Equinox*, *The Inheritance*, *Amos Berry*, and *Death of Anger*—are included in the collection, as are those of his "memoirs as fiction," *A Frieze of Girls*, many of his short stories, and that for *The Glass House*, the biography of his longtime friend, the poet Theodore Roethke. Along with drafts and galleys for the Roethke book are numerous interviews which Seager conducted with persons who had known the poet at various times in his life; as much of this latter material was not included in the text, and as the printed version differs in many ways from the projected biography, the files are indeed invaluable to all future Roethke studies.

With this major acquisition, The Bancroft Library has become richer in the area of American literary manuscripts; along with the Wright Morris Papers, the Allan Seager Papers will provide high grade ore for students of the modern American novel.

Bay Area Printing

WHEN TWO INTERVIEWS now being edited are completed, the Regional Oral History Office series on books and printing in the San Francisco Bay area will total twenty volumes. The series of interviews conducted by Ruth Teiser and Catherine Harroun was begun in 1965 with Oscar Lewis discussing his career as a writer and recalling printers he knew during the years in which he served as secretary of The Book Club of California. But the idea for the series came from a 1960 interview which Francis P. Farquhar conducted with Edward deWitt Taylor, a partner in the firm of Taylor & Taylor.

The year 1966 saw completion of interviews with William Everson (then Brother Antoninus) who spoke of both his poetry and his printing; Jane Grabhorn, who recalled her remarkable publishing venture, the Colt Press; Albert Sperisen, who remembered the Black Vine Press and his acquaintance with the area's fine printers since 1925; and, Adrian Wilson, who analyzed his development as a printer and book designer.

During the following year, three more volumes were completed. Haywood Hunt, one of San Francisco's most respected and widely acquainted commercial printers, reminisced about colleagues from the days of John Henry Nash to the present. Lawton Kennedy discussed his more than fifty years of experience in and observations of the Bay area world of printing, and Warren R. Howell gave an interview on his father's activities and his own in buying and selling of old and rare books, the creation of fine libraries, and the publishing of distinguished books.

Also in 1967, the late Edwin Grabhorn recalled various activities of the press which he headed. His brother, Robert, gave an illuminating parallel interview. During the following year, Francis P. Farquhar shared memories of his long association with the Taylor brothers, the Grabhorns, Lawton Kennedy and other fine printers; his remarks were bound with Edwin Grabhorn's interview.

Meanwhile, a series of six interviews with men of the Schmidt Lithograph Company, one of the nation's great label houses, had been

started in 1967 and was completed in 1969. The company itself and the collection of material that members of the Schmidt family presented to The Bancroft Library were described in the May, 1968 issue of *Bancroftiana*, and an article based principally on the interviews and the donated material appeared in the March, 1969 issue of *The American West*.

During the past year interviews were completed with four fine printers, a bookseller, and the new Director of the Bancroft. The printers are Lewis and Dorothy Allen, generally acknowledged to be the only professional hand-press printers in the world today; Mallette Dean, artist, illustrator, and printer; and Jack Stauffacher, printer, designer, writer and teacher. The bookseller is David Magee, who discussed his experiences as an antiquarian bookman, writer, bibliographer and publisher. Professor James D. Hart, who served as advisor to the series, was interviewed to discuss the work of an amateur printer with his own hand-press, and he also contributed observations on the fine printing tradition of the San Francisco Bay area.

The two interviews now being completed are with Carroll T. Harris, who heads the firm Mackenzie & Harris which supplies type and typesetting services, and Walter J. Mann, who headed the photoengraving firm bearing his name and who collaborated in the creation of much of the area's fine photographic reproduction. To date, twenty-one libraries in the United States have ordered copies of these volumes, and a book based upon the interviews with the eight fine press proprietors has been published by The Book Club of California under the title *Printing as a Performing Art*.

Binkley Photographs

A FEW MONTHS AGO a young commercial photographer, Roger Freeburg, came to the Bancroft to find photographs for a mural. He was impressed with our holdings of pictures of San Francisco and other areas of the American West, and after a few days returned to the Library to say that he had learned of the existence of a cache of glass negatives by a photographer named Binkley, who had worked in both San Francisco and Marin County from

the early years of this century to the 1930s. The collection was owned by a young couple who had taken over an old house in Mill Valley; during the course of renovation the negatives turned up in the attic.

Mr. Freeburg wondered aloud whether he should see what might be done to have the owners consider The Bancroft Library as a repository for these early photographs. We, of course, indicated our interest, and were delighted a few weeks later to learn that the entire collection, originally some twenty-six cartons of glass plates, were to be donated to us by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Baker.

Desiderata

The following Taylor & Taylor "imprints" are being sought, to complete the Bancroft's holdings of this firm's work—

Stevenson, Howard G. *Ship Defiant, voyage from New York to San Francisco 1875-1876, and subsequent voyages as the ship Amphitrite*. San Francisco, Privately Printed, 1937. "Issued in an edition of 25 copies."

Johnson, Samuel. *Dr. Johnson's Prayers*. Introduction by Elton Trueblood. Stanford University, James Ladd Delkin [1945]. "350 copies"

Landels, Thomas Durley. *Things new & old, selected poems published and unpublished*. Stanford University, James Ladd Delkin, 1946.

Bechtel International Company, Inc. *Transportation report, Dammam to Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*. San Francisco, 1947.

Colley, George S. *Manila-Kuching and return, 1941-1945*. San Francisco, Privately Printed, 1951. "Second Printing"

Finnie, Richard. *Korea's new energy . . . Three steam-electric power plants by Pacific Bechtel Corporation . . . 1954-1956*. San Francisco [The Bechtel Corporation] 1956.

Finnie, Richard. *Bechtel in Arab lands, a fifteen-year review*. San Francisco [The Bechtel Corporation] 1958.

Should any be available for offer to The Bancroft, please communicate with Miss Patricia Howard, by letter or telephone (642-3781).

Council of the Friends

J. S. Holliday, <i>Chairman</i>	Theodore Meyer
DeWitt Alexander	Warren Olney III
Joseph M. Bransten	Mrs. David Potter
William Bronson	Harold G. Schutt
Henry Dakin	Albert Shumate
Charles de Bretteville	George R. Stewart
Peter Haas	Norman H. Strouse
Mrs. Gerald H. Hagar	Mrs. Calvin K. Townsend
James D. Hart	Mrs. Dixon Wecker
Mrs. John G. Hatfield	George P. Hammond,
Warren Howell	<i>Honorary</i>

From Roustabout to Riches

ONE OF THE GREAT California success stories is recorded in the extensive papers of the Robert Dollar family, now being arranged for future use by the Manuscripts Division. Consisting of personalia, including Robert Dollar's voluminous diaries covering the period 1872-1932, as well as photographs and business records, the collection has been presented to The Bancroft Library by R. Stanley Dollar, Jr. and other members of the Dollar family.

The founder of a vast lumber and shipping empire, Robert Dollar was born in Scotland in 1844. His active career began fourteen years later; he rose from cook's boy to foreman to owner of his own lumber yard in Canada. By 1893 he had established a mill and lumbering business at Usal in Mendocino County, and shortly thereafter embarked upon his shipping career with the purchase of the steam schooner *Newsboy*, used to transport lumber to coastal markets.

Gradually enlarging his shipping operations, Captain Dollar organized the Dollar Steamship Line in 1910, and in 1924 inaugurated the first round-the-world passenger and cargo service. His fleet consisted of thirteen steamers and ten sailing vessels; each year he and his wife traveled widely to establish new offices and to solicit new business. Dollar learned the secret of success in shipping: "Never come home in ballast, or your voyage will bring you a loss. Always take a full cargo both ways, even if you have to buy it."

The Dollar Line initiated many innovations, including the publication of scheduled departure and arrival hours—and carefully observed its own schedules! No scholarly study of west coast lumbering and shipping, or of the development of trade with the Far East, would be complete without the story of the Robert Dollar Company and its many divisions: Dollar Steamship Line, Admiral Oriental Line, American Mail Line, Globe Wireless, Egmont Timber Company, and others.

Robert Dollar is best remembered in superlatives: "greatest individual creator of commerce between the Pacific Coast and the Orient," "greatest worker for the establishment of a powerful American merchant ma-

rine," and "Grand Old Man of the Pacific." The Bancroft is proud to have been designated the repository for his papers, which add immeasurably to its holdings of California business records.

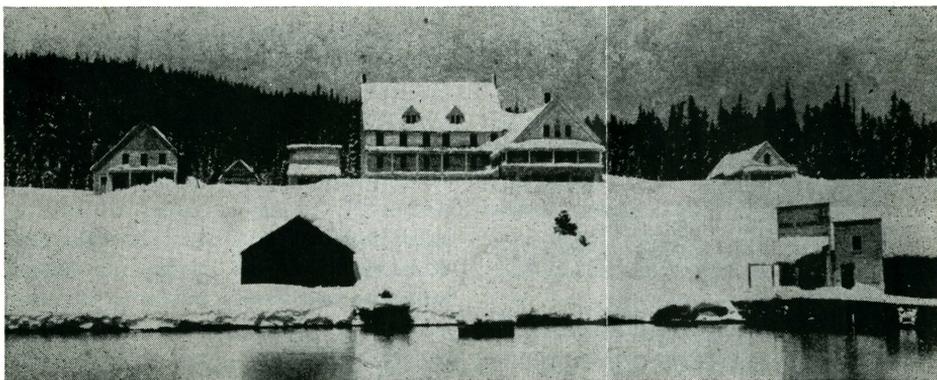
Papers of Winfield Scott Rogers

A SMALL BUT VERY CHOICE body of letters and photographs of Winfield Scott Rogers, the recent gift and deposit of Mrs. Shirley Ossipoff of London, adds significantly to the Bancroft's ability to open a window on rural California during the years between 1873 and 1911. Rogers, the donor's grandfather, was well known as a California journalist, being publisher for many years of the *Mountain Echo* of Boulder Creek in Santa Cruz county. It was he who printed five issues on large oak leaves to chastise his subscribers by making clear in

format as well as in text that had they not fallen behind in their payments he could have bought proper newsprint. The Bancroft is to receive a full set of this rarity from Mrs. Ossipoff at a later date.

The earliest portions of the collection include a diary for 1873-74 kept by Rodgers' father-in-law, M. E. O. Wood of Troutdale Farm, Santa Cruz, and a series of letters written by Rodgers to his wife, Cleo Emana Wood Rodgers. Aside from pictures of the family farm and family portraits, there is an excellent and rare photograph, taken by Romanso E. (Mrs. M. E. O.) Wood, of the Grand Central Hotel, Lake Tahoe, reproduced on this page of *Bancroftiana*.

The welcome arrival of these materials in The Bancroft Library reminds us to urge our Friends that these are the kinds of papers we very much need to learn about and, if possible, acquire for the ongoing task of interpreting and understanding our past.



Grand Central Hotel, Lake Tahoe

Helen Bretnor Honored

LATE IN THE SPRING, Stanford University Press published *California Local History: A Bibliography and Union List of Library Holdings*; the result of ten years of work, this is the second edition of a volume published in 1950 to honor California's centennial, a volume which has been found invaluable by historians, librarians, scholars, writers, collectors and booksellers. Edited by Margaret Miller Rocq, this new edition carries the following dedication to one of its most diligent compilers—

Dedicated to the late Helen Harding Bretnor whose quiet resourcefulness was the final authority for the answers to the historical and bibliographical quandaries.

The Friends well recall the devoted service which Mrs. Bretnor gave over the long period of her association with the Bancroft, from 1943 until her death in 1967. The Library itself has been honored by this additional recognition of her outstanding contributions to the world of scholarship.