Sabbatical Leave Report
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INTRODUCTION

This is a narrative report on the travel and research completed during my sabbatical leave in 1979. Thirteen sections are included, covering the information obtained on each trip and the historic sites visited in California, Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia. Each section is in roughly chronological order, except for sections 10, 11, and 12 which were completed between the other trips.

Each section describes the travel or research and includes brief comments on how the material will relate to specific classes which I teach each semester. California history material is found in sections 2,3,4,5,6,9,10 and 11. Southern California history material is found in sections 2,3,4,11,12, and 13. The history of the United States and our nation's capital is found in sections 6 and 7.

The commentary in each section includes the pattern of history encountered in each region, the new information and insights gained from the locations and the places and/or buildings which were a disappointment in some way. Names of buildings and people, important dates, and a comparison of the past with the present condition of most areas is found in each section. It is intended that this type of commentary will provide a complete summary of each trip.

The research and writing completed on the sabbatical are explained in section 12. The writing based on this research, that is the early history of the community of El Monte, California, is contained in section 13.

The purpose of this sabbatical was to complete a program of travel and research designed to improve the teaching of three different courses. The methods included visiting and photographing historic sites and musuems, the collection of books, pamphlets, and maps from these sites, and research and writing about the history of one community in southern California. The following is a summary of the work completed for use in teaching United States History, California History and Southern California History. In addition, a limited amount of information was gathered for the course in the History of Asia.

The first research project undertaken was at the Aviation Museum and Library of Northrop University in Los Angeles. Located near Los Angeles International Airport, this facility houses the largest collection of books, photographs and displays on aviation in southern California. The focus of this research was on the origins of the Douglas and Loughead (Lockheed) Aircraft companies, the careers of Glenn L. Martin, Donald Douglas, and the Loughead borthers, Malcomb and Allan. In addition, specific events in the history of American aviation were investigated. These included the pioneer Dominguez Air Meet in 1910, the first cross-country flight by Cal Rogers in the Vin Fizz in 1911, the globe circling flight of the Douglas World Cruisers in 1924, and the conception and development of the Douglas DC-3 aircraft. From the numerous photographs studied, several were selected for reproduction for classroom use. The book on early aviation, Los Angeles Aeronautics, 1920-29, by David Hatfield, was purchased for continued reference. The material gathered at the Northrop facility will be used in all three classes.

On the trip taken to study the historic sites of San Diego County, many locations were visited which played pivotal roles in the history of both southern California and the entire state. The first stop was the Franciscan Assistencia at Pala. Offically founded as San Antonio de Pala by Father Antonio Peyri in 1816, this branch mission was created to serve the Indians of the interior

not reached by its parent mission, San Luis Rey de Francia. Restored in 1903, the Pala Assistencia is located in a beautiful agricultural valley. It is in the midst of a small Indian reservation. As such the region is one of the few mission sites still owned and managed by the native peoples. During the time when the assistencia was in decay, the residents survived by finding and processing tourmaline, a semi-precious stone exported from Pala to China in the period after 1870. Pala is one of only two sites in the United States that produces tourmaline. Rediscovered in the early 1970s, there is now active work at the Tourmaline Queen Mine first opened back in 1903. This and other mines are located outside of the boundaries of the reservation.

Deeper into San Diego County's back country are Warner's Ranch, Julian, and the site of the Battle of San Pascual. In the early 1840s John (Juan Jose) Warner recieved title to 44,322 acres from the provincial governor. His home and store served as a supply post, haven from attack, and gathering point for American settlers and soldiers in the 1840s and 1850s. In the late 1850s it was a stop on the Butterfield Stage Line to Los Angeles and San Francisco. While the site itself was a disappointment, the concept of how far the pioneers had to travel and the great expanse of land inland from the coast which is still undeveloped proved very instructive. Camp Wright's (1861) site and nearby Oak Grove stage station (1858) were also visited. The impression of these transportation and military sites being located in the hills or mountains was dispelled by visting this expanse of valleys and grazing land.

The discovery of gold at Julian in the early 1870s led to the first substantial growth for the town of San Diego. The town of Julian today fits the picture, as it is indeed located high in the pine forest. Still an active community, Julian contains a Victorian hotel, rustic stores, a museum, and the transplanted Witch Creek School, now a county library. The old school was still in use until the late 1950s and is the best of the community's sites.

On December 6, 1846 the American Dragoons under General Steven Kerney met the California Lancers under General Andres Pico at the battle of San Pascual. This engagement, the nearest to a full battle fought in California during the War with Mexico, opened the way for American victory. While it was important to learn the physical relationship between the battle ground and Warner's Ranch or San Diego, the site itself was a disappointment. It contains only a marker, with no buildings or maps to indicate the battle lines or troop movements.

Along with Los Angeles, San Diego is the most important city in the state or nation in the history of early aviation. Therefore, the first site visited was Otay Mesa, south of the city near the Mexican border. Here in 1883, twenty years before the Wright Brothers, John J. Montgomery made the first flight in a heavier-than-air craft. Montgomery was the first human to fly and his glider resembled the Wright's, however he lacked the necessary source of power. The present town of Otay is surrounded by mesas used by Montgomery in his pioneering experiments. Otay is also the location of the Sweetwater Reservoir which broke in the flood of 1913 in San Diego. This disaster was caused, at least in part, by the early experiments in cloud seeding by Charles Hatfield, the "Rainmaker" of southern California. The monument to Montgomery consists of a plaque at the base of the wing of a B-24 bomber.

The Hotel del Coronado, built in 1887 by Elisha S. Babcock, is one of only two remaining hotels from the great southern California land boom of the 1880s. Further, it is an example, on a truly grand scale, of the elegant seaside resorts which once flourished along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Located across the bay from the city, the retirement town of Coronado is a slice out of the twenties in southern California. The hotel, aided in its growth by the sugar magnets John and Rudolph Spreckles, boasts of being the first hotel

in the world to be lighted by electricty via a system installed by Thomas Edison himself. The basement halls contain historic exhibits, including one of the early Edison bulbs and photos of presidential visitors. It is interesting to note Franklin Roosevelt as a "regular" visitor. North of the hotel and town, the United States Navy's North Island Air Base contains the site of the country's first military flying school, opened in 1917. This was founded by aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss.

On the Point Loma peninsula west of San Diego several paths of history meet. Looking down on the entrance to the bay from the national monument buildings, one can see Ballast Point, the landing site of Juan R. Cabrillo in 1542. The story of Cabrillo's visit to the bay is told in many ways at the federal operation. One can also see the various military bases which have served as nerve centers for our nation in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Of greatest interest, however, was the old Point Loma Lighthouse, operational from 1855 to 1891. An exceptional restoration to the era of light keeper Robert Israel and family (1870s), this light was one of the first to be built on the Pacific Coast by the federal government. Displays and maps provided much valuable information on the development of the harbor over the years, and also on the Fresnel lens used at this and other lighthouses. The history of transportation and technology are important parts of my courses. The town at Point Loma was the site of the experiments in living led by Katherine Tingley and the Theosophists in the late ninteenth century.

At the heart of history in San Diego is Old Town, a collection of many buildings in three adjoining sections which mark the start of San Diego under the government of Mexico and its earliest form under the United States. Newest and smallest of these sections is the collection of Victorian era homes moved to the Heritage Park on Harney Street. At present six Victorian buildings are being restored for use as shops. The most impressive is the multi-colored

Sherman-Gilbert House, rescued in 1971 by the Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO). Joining it are the Bushyhead, Burton, and Christian Houses and the Temple Beth Israel (oldest synagogue in southern California).

The second small portion of Old Town contains shops and restaurants of little historic interest or whose historic place is mostly disguised by their modern function. The Whaley House and the first home of the San Diego Union are exceptions to this commercial dominance. Built in 1856 by San Diego pioneer Thomas Whaley, the building served as the center of commercial and political activity for fifteen years. The $ 10,000 cost of the Whaley House made it the most imposing building in San Diego for decades. Basing his structure on fired brick rather than adobe was an innovation. The western portion served merchant Whaley as a storeroom, but it was later converted into the San Diego County Courthouse. It is now restored to its courthouse condition. The house was the scene of the disputed removal of county records in 1871 when rival business promoters spirited them away to the "new town" which is today's San Diego. The next-door Derby Pendleton House (1815) is unimposing, but one of California's first pre-fabricated homes.

The small San Diego Union building (1851) was primarily a print shop which incidentally produced the town's first newspaper. More important than the contents of this building is the concept of scale and size which may be gained from comparing it with the Whaley House of just a few years later or the large Victorian homes on Harney street.

The final and largest section of Old Town is the California State Historic Park. Most of the buildings date from the Spanish and Mexican eras, and are unexceptional. Best of these buildings are the Casa de Estudillo (1827), an excellent restoration reflecting the pride and power of its owners, and the still unopened Casa de Bandini (1827) across the street. Like the Whaley House, the Bandini buidling served as a focal point for the entire community, particularly after a second story was added in 1869 for its conversion into

a hotel by Albert Seeley. The hotel, called the Cosmopolitan, served as the headquarters for Seeley's transportation business which included stage lines to Los Angeles and Yuma. The Bandini house served as the headquarters for Commodore Robert Stockton during the war with Mexico.

The most important feature of the state park is the restoration of the Seeley Stables just behind Casa de Bandini. In addition to the records of Seeley's enterprises, it contains the Roscoe Hazard collection of carriages and provides an excellent display of the history of horsedrawn transportation in America in the late ninteenth century. The stables were built in 1869.

Also in the park is the Mason Street School (1865), the last of several schools located on the site. Restored to the 1870 period, the school is a good example of one-room education in America. The school, along with the Bandini and Estudillo adobes, is near the Plaza (Washington Square) which was laid out in 1835 by the Mexican town leaders. It later contained a well for the region and was the site of the first raising of the American Flag in San Diego in 1846 by Marines from the U.S.S. Cyane. Similar to the Plaza in Los Angeles, this location is one of the most historic spots in all of southern California.

The most famous feature of historic Balboa Park is the Zoo. Of greater importance to this report were the buildings left from the two international exhibitions held in 1914-15 and 1935. Unfortunately, the Aerospace Museum's oldest building along with many irreplaceable records and aircraft replicas burned in 1978. The Churringueresque style architecture of the 1915 buildings, particularly the Musuem of Man and its splendid tower, reflect San Diego's (and really all of California's) attempt to catch-up with the rest of the nation in the early twentieth century. The monumental themes and concept of "popular exhibits" such as these at the 1,400 acre park find later expression in the Theme Parks at Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, and Sea World.

North and west of downtown San Diego, the Serra Musuem and the mission

were the last sites visited in this area. While the Serra Musuem of 1929 is of little interest, the location on a hill overlooking the bay and Old Town is a vital one. On this same spot the San Diego Presidio was located. Nothing remains of this fort and a lack of original plans mean it is unlikely that it will ever be restored. However, archeological work done for the nation's bicentennial in 1976 revealed many features of the old ruins. These included the presence of a chapel for the garrison and the probable location for the jail which held such famous visitors as Jedediah Smith and James Ohio Pattie.

Five miles away in Mission Valley stands California's first mission, San Diego de Alcala. What remains is the chapel of the 1813 rebuilding of the original mission. Archeological work is still being carried out, and in the last few years the story of the building's role as a military base in the 1846 conflict has come to light. Talks with the professionals working on the site and the mission itself revealed the severely limited building information which was available to the padres and the mission Indians. Operated as a place of worship by the church since the building was restored to the original owners in 1862, an important part of the building is the first rectory in California, one occupied by Father Junipero Serra.

Like San Diego, Monterey has more history and more sites than can be comprehended in even several visits. Serving as the capitol of the province of California from 1775 until 1846, Monterey has been passed-by in the American years and is not surrounded by a major city such as San Diego, Los Angeles or San Francisco. The presidio does not exist, but the Royal Presidio Chapel of 1775 does. The present building dates from 1795 and has been in continuous use since then. Its location on a hill overlooking the bay and the valley to the east demonstrate the good judgment of the Spanish military leaders. With the removal of the mission to Carmel several miles to the south, the chapel functioned as a center for the capital, its inhabitants, and the foreign visitors doing business in Monterey.

Below the Chapel is the small adobe housing the first French Consulate in California. Built in 1848 by Jacques A. Moerehaut, the adobe has served many purposes over the years. The consulate is located on the lovely lagoon named El Estero by Captain Portola in 1770. There are many remaining adobes in Monterey, but most are still in private ownership. Those open to the public are not much different from adobes elsewhere in California. Conversely, those early buildings operated by the state are of great interest and value.

California's first theater, a tiny building built and operated by the Scotsman Jack Swan is in a difficult location and less important than other early theaters at Sacramento and Nevada City. The large, two-story Pacific House was first used as a military storehouse and later a hotel for seamen calling at Monterey. Now a musuem featuring a large Indian collection and a lovely garden, it is the center for the state's operations.

The best site, in terms of history and beauty, in Monterey and even the state is the Larkin House. Owned by one of the two or three most important men in early California history, this two story building is the archetypal example of the Monterey Colonial architecture. Built from adobe and redwood beginning in 1834, it is on the list of the 100 most beautiful homes in America, the only home on the list west of the Mississippi. While most of this distinction belongs to the elegant and valuable collection of furniture, paintings, and china collected by Larkin's granddaughter, the home itself and those furnishings belonging to Thomas Larkin, the first United States Consul to Mexico, are treasures too. This home aptly fits the image of power and determination associated with Larkin.

An appendage to the Larkin house is the Sherman-Halleck Adobe. In the war with Mexico Lt. William Sherman (later in Georgia in the Civil War) and Captain Henry W. Halleck (later a California historian and land surveyor) shared living quarters and functioned as supply officers for the American troops garrisoned in the town. Next to this adobe, operated by the Monterey

History and Art Association, is the Allen Knight Maritime Museum. The Knight building contains one of the largest collections of maritime models and relics in the nation. Included are exhibits on Chinese junks (the first fishermen at Monterey were Chinese) and American fighting ships from 1846 to the 1950s.

Challenging the Larkin House as the best in Monterey, is the state operated Custom House. Parts of the building dates back to 1827 and the present form duplicates the structure as it was in 1846. The adobe walls have "slipped" and are bulging-out at the bottom on the inside. The main room contains recreations of the hundreds of different items which would have been processed at the site in the collection of customs duties in the Mexican Era. These "living exhibits" include tools, bear traps, fireworks, and a green parrot. A bridge between the Mexican and American worlds of the 1830s and 1840s, this place is an excellent example of the interaction between those cultures which constitute the sum of the state's history in those years.

Other stops at Monterey included the Stevenson House, Cannery Row and Colton Hall and Jail. The Stevenson House, named for the brief visit of author Robert Louis Stevenson in 1879, is chiefly distinguished by the story of an annual ghost visit in December. While in Monterey and Somona, Stevenson gathered material and names for his Treasure Island novel.

Cannery Row, immortalized by John Steinbeck in his novels and short-stories, has only one operating fish cannery today. The remaining buildings are being preserved as shops, restaurants, and other businesses and still retain the exterior flavor and feeling of Steinbeck's days. Viewing the harbor, one can still catch glimpses of seals and sea otters. This little animal, hunted here and elsewhere along the Califpmia coast, rivaled the cattle of the province as a source of revenue in the first half of the ninteenth century. The curve of beach viewed from Cannery Row is the same viewed by Sebastian Vizcaino when he named the bay in 1602.

Colton Hall, named for its builder the Reverend Walter Colton, was built as a public meeting place and school house in 1846. Colton, the alcalde or mayor of Monterey in those years, also published the first newspaper in the state that year. Next door is the massive county jail dating from 1854 and still in use until recent years. Its cells are almost dungeon like.

While the building has served the city and county in various capacities for over a century, today it is restored to its most famous function as the site of the drafting of California's first constitution in 1849. Tables, benches, and photographs portray the debates which shaped the legal history of the state for thirty years and established the basis for California's admission into the union, an event which drastically altered the nation's history.

A short drive west of Monterey is the attractive Victorian community of Padific Grove, a town with several historic features. Washington Park is the winter home of the Monarch Butterfly, that spectacular orange insect which migrates and mates here annually. This is an attraction superior to the famed swallows of Capistrano, in my opinion. Both the butterfly and the sea otter are features of the excellent natural history museum in Pacific Grove. Before its interest in animal history, the community was famous as the home of the "Chautauqua-by-the-sea" established in 1879. So many residents and tourists flocked to the uplifting concerts and programs held in the Chautauqua Hall that the Southern Pacific Railroad build a special line to the town in the 1890s. Named for the famous site in upstate New York, this operation was the first such enterprise in the West and it prospered for many decades.

Enroute to Monterey, the continued importance of the Salinas Valley as one of California's prime agricultural regions was readily apparent. The spring planting, the crews in the fields, and the Spreckles Sugar plant on the outskirts of the town of Salinas were testimony to the valley's claim to the title of the nation's salad bowl. Also striking was the similarity of this region to the farm lands of Ventura County, and their contrast to the

agricultural operations in the great Central Valley or the Imperial Valley.

The missions along highway 101 at San Luis Obispo, San Miguel, and Soledad were also part of this trip. Nuestra Senora de la Soledad (1791), the least successful of California's missions and long noted as the only one never restored, has lost the latter distinction. In the 1970s this site has shown great progress, but it still has a long way to go to match most of the other missions. The road to the mission features the 1843 adobe on the Los Coches Rancho site. It is marked by the huge trees near the adobe. The building also served as a military base for Captain John Fremont and a stage stop and post office.

The mission San Miguel Arcangel (1897) was little changed, but a talk with a priest revealed the important continuity it still provides for the little farming town. Further south, Morro Bay and Morro Rock were the site of navigational landmarks and hazards for mariners until recent times. The rock deserves its title as the "Pacific Gibralter" even if it has never been a fort.

The small town of San Luis Obispo has several places related to history. The adobe of of Pierre H. Dallidet (1853) belonged to one of the town's best farm families. It shares space with the horse drawn trolley car which used to serve the big Ramona Hotel (1889-1905) operated by the Southern Pacific Railroad. The San Luis Obispo Cigar Factory (1897) sold products under the Pioneer Cigar label. The large brick building now houses a restraurant.

The mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa (1772) long seemed out of place in the shopping district, but recent conversion of the downtown streets into a pedestrian walk and park have greatly enhanced its appearance. This change is further enhanced by the presence of gentle San Luis Creek. Two bells cast in Peru in 1818 distinguish this mission.

Near the mission the old Andrew Carnegie library (1905) is now the home of the County Historical Musuem. Built from attractive stone quaried on Bishop's Peak, the building has a metal roof. While the exhibits are cluttered and have

the usual features, an old horse drawn Rural Free Delivery wagon and road mileage signs erected by tire companies are unusual.

San Luis Obispo was one of the last towns in the state to be connected with the railroad lines. The Chinese, builders of the transcontintental railroad line in the 1860s, were still the primary workers on the Southern Pacific when it reached this community in the 1890s. A remnant of the days of Chinese railroad workers and farm laborers is the Ah Louis Store (1874) still owned by the original family. Opened to sell general merchandise, the store also functioned as a post office for the Chinese and the office for the brick-yard operated by the store owners. Today's irregular hours make it hard for visitors to purchase the items from the Orient still sold in the store. The brick structure features iron doors for the windows, an old safeguard against fire.

Ventura County has a variety of historic place and buildings. In the midst of fields of lima beans and green peppers stands the Olivas Adobe. Built in 1850 by Raymundo Olivas, this beautiful two story adobe served as the head-quarters for his Rancho San Miguel. The spacious location and beautiful walled garden enhance this building. The second floor rooms are reached by the outside stairs from the full length verandas on either side of the house. At the east end of the city of Ventura one can visit Serra's cross on the hill above the town and look north toward the first oil well site in southern California. In 1859 George S. Gilbert brought in the first producing oil well west of Pennsylvania, and the region known locally as "the Avenue" still produces a substantial amount of oil. Immediately below is the mission San Buenaventura (1782) which includes huge silver candle holders brought from Manila and a set of oil paintings of exceptional quality. The Peirano grocery store (1874) across the street from the mission is still a functioning retail establishment.

The Santa Clara River Valley east of Ventura was the site of the first southern California oil company and Santa Paula has the California Oil Museum housing its relics. The Union Oil Company was formed in 1890 by Ventura

County pioneer Thomas R. Bard and his partners. Headquartered in Santa Paula in the early years, Union Oil developed some of the first light-weight oil reserves in the state. The two-story Victorian brownstone is as interesting as the oil drilling equipment inside. This structure (1889) is unusual since it was built as an office not a home or warehouse in the ornate Victorian style. The equipment is striking for its enormous size and mostly wooden construction. Photos and paintings depict the search for oil 100 years ago. Also avaliable here are original records from the oil companies and an exhibit of oil indicating fossils.

The Filmore Historical Musuem (1888) is housed in an old Southern Pacific depot and an adjoining railroad car. The structures and the exhibit featuring the endangered California Condor found in the nearby Squaw Flat preserve are the most important features here. The fifteen mile trip into the Sespe range was a good trip, but no condors were seen.

The Stagecoach Inn and Museum at Newbury Park (1876) were created when a freeway overcrossing forced the moving of the building and the destruction of an ancient oak. The move did restore the building to its earliest form, removing the later southern colonial front. This was a stop on the stage road between Los Angeles and Paso Robles in the years down to 1890 and the arrival of the railroad.

Just across the border into Los Angeles County is the important Leonis Adobe at Calabasas. The home of the notorous Miguel Leonis, onetime terror of the San Fernando Valley, this two story adobe has an adjacent water tank and windmill which contain a worker's bunkhouse below. A surprisingly rural site, it features animals and garden. Leonis ruled the valley as a private kindom in the 1850 to 1875 era and was one of the region's most colorful residents.

Selected to attend the Third Annual Newberry Library Conference on State and Local History, I was able to study and travel in Chicago. Founded in 1887 through the bequest of Walter L. Newberry, a real estate developer, the build-

ing and its multi-volume collection of books and manuscripts are an historic institution in themselves. The conference included a long bus tour and I was also able to make some side trips. I was particularly pleased to be able to visit Jane Addams' Hull House, now on the Chicago Circle Campus of the University of Illinois. Built as a home in the 1850s, Jane Addams and her friends made it a world famous settlement house in the 1880s. Unfortunately the restoration has returned it to the configuration of the earlier private home and removed the accumulation of outbuildings added over the years to the working settlemnet house. The furnishings and restored dining hall add some of the flavor of the busy structure presided over by Ms. Addams.

Another important trip included the Field Musuem of Natural History on Lake Michigan. Exhibits particularly valuable to me included the ones from Tibet, a reconstructed Plains Indian long house, and a special show on Feather Arts. The latter collection included many baskets and pieces of feather apparel used by the California Indians.

The Chicago Water Tower, survivor of the great fire, and the modern John Hancock Building represent different points in the development of this city. California born and raised, just being in a really big city for the first time in my life was a real experience and a clear-cut contrast with the structure and "feeling" of Los Angeles or San Francisco. The home of Sears and Montgomery Ward has always been in my courses, but now it is <u>real</u> to me in a personal way.

The conference tour was a four hour trip down Michigan Avenue into the Loop and Southside districts. Conducted by professors Glen Holt and Dominic Pacyga, this was a trip into the melting pot of America. Despite the rain, we were able to see and <u>feel</u> the neighborhoods of the working class immigrants who built this city and labored in its industries. There are twelve Catholic churches in the two square mile area known as the "back-of-the yards" and nearly each one serves a different immigrant descended ethnic group from Europe or South America. The social, economic and political history of the city can

be seen here. Of lesser interest was the University of Chicago campus, the Robie House of Frank Lloyd Wright, the Glessner House of H. H. Richardson, and the infant restoration of Victorian homes along Prairie Avenue.

The Conference itself was the most productive I have ever attended. The working sessions provided both information and inspiration. While it may take several semesters to incorporate all that I learned into my classes, the material will be of great value in each of my subject areas. I attended workshops on Oral History, Family History, Local History Centers, Census Records and their use, and co-chaired a program of projects outside the classroom using slides of the Vintage Years project. Also included at the conference was a slide history of Chicago (preparation for the bus trip) which constantly struck me as paralleling the history of Los Angeles. Major lectures on funding local history, the new program in Public History at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the use of museum artifacts in the classroom added to the value of the meeting.

I experienced snow, biting cold winds, the remnants of the garbage strike, and appalling urban decay. I have never seen a place so brown and dead from the effects of a harsh winter. I brought home two books on Chicago's history, some pamphlets from the library and a copies of a dozen papers read at the earlier Newberry Conferences. Altogether, it was a great urban experience.

The state of Virginia and Washington D.C. are store houses of America's colonial, civil war, and political history. Visiting only a portion of the places there greatly broadened my knowledge and understanding of these periods in United States History. In Washington D. C., I was able to see the center of American History being made today. A V.I.P. tour of the White House, courtesy of our local representative, provided a small group view of the public rooms of the home of the Presidents. At the Capitol a quick shift enabled me to see both the House and Senate chambers, with the latter in session and California's Senator speaking. Even more impressive was the old Senate Chamber downstairs, the site of all of the famous debates down to the late 1850s. The walk through

the streets behind the capitol, through row houses in various stages of decay or urban rebuilding was instructive too.

The ornate furnishings of the White House and Capitol are impressive and yet slightly offensive. For a nation priding itself on rejecting the European trappings of empire, the builders and decorators of these buildings certainly tried to create lavish features. This was particularly true in the old Senate Chamber. The heavy crimson draperies surrounding the dais occupied by the Vice-President would have been envied by the emperors of ancient kingdoms. But these men were not emperors and the great debates over slavery, foreign policy and the Bank of the United States took place here. In a reversal of the pattern at the White House, the working corridors of the Capitol are downstairs along with dining areas, small libraries and cloakrooms.

The view from the top of the Washington Monument is impressive, even in overcast weather. The mall between the monument and the Capitol is flanked by the many structures of the Smithsonian Institution. These buildings contain only a fraction of the nation's treasures, but they represent the visible heart of our economic and social history. I was unable to visit each building or even each part of the displays they housed. The National Gallery of Art offered a first-hand view of paintings from the American "Ash-can" school of painting. The National Musueum of Natural History proved uneventful except for the great blue whale. The Freer Gallery of Art contains James M. Whistler's other paintings and the works of other famous American artists. Highlight of my tour was the exhibit of Chinese bronzes from the Shang, Chou, and Han dynasties.

The National Air and Space Musuem required several visits and was the most important of the Smithsonian's buildings for me. The aircraft of the Wrights, and Lindbergh are lionized along with the bit of moon rock rubbed by millions. For me the Vin Fizz of Cal Rogers and the Bell X-1 rocket plane, the first to break the sound barrier, were of greater interest, being objects that I had had greater personal involvement with over the years. Whole rooms filled with the

aircraft and recreated features of a particular era riveted one's attention. Since it is one of the newest buildings, the displays and films are presented there in a way which involves the visitor in the action and mood.

The two oldest buildings in the complex were also of great interest. The headquarters building (the tower building) of 1855 is composed of offices, but just being there and the displays about James Smithson and the history of his bequest make it exciting. Next door the Arts and Industries building is now the home of displays first seen at the nation's 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. Not just displays, but the whole building is like walking back to that era. Exhibits from California, giant machines, the "orchestrion" playing in the center balcony, and material from the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (a particular interest of mine) kept me there most of the day.

After that, the National Museum of History and Technology was less exciting than expected. Still it did have models on bridge and canal building, a Bessemer Convertor and a new wing devoted to a section called "A Nation of Nations". This tribute to our immigrant heritage equalled the displays of aviation in freshness and originality. A peddler's wagon, several recreated schoolrooms, a full size prairie windmill, and a Samuel Slater power spinning machine were all exceptional. Taken together, the buildings visited and those left unexplored at the Smithsonian, this mall would be my first stop in any return visit.

Passing statues of Alexander Hamilton and Albert Gallatin, I entered the small musuem in the basement on the White House side of the Treasury Building. Exhibits of the minting, customs, and police functions of the department are interesting. At the movie theater I saw a film on the U.S. Mint at San Francisco. Believing this might be standard practice, I searched in vain for a similar musuem in the Department of Agriculture building on the other corner of the mall. Compared with the other buildings, the National Archives, at least the public display rooms, was also a disappointment.

The Library of Congress, or at least the main building one associates with

this institution is impressive in many ways. The building itself is very striking in the elaborate Victorian style of the 1890s. A visit to the gallery above and the main card catalogue below are very much like visiting a shrine for someone working in the business of books and documents. Next door I visited the halls of the Cannon Building (offices for the House), a real working portion of the city.

While still in northern Virginia I was able to visit several colonial landmarks. Mount Vernon loses much of its granduer due to the crush of people. The walk down to the Potomac River and into the support buildings away from the main house was impressive and gave a much better picture of the man and his place in American history. The mementos of the lives of the Washingtons in their years away from the Presidency are revealing as are the slave quarters near the house. The gardens and walks are reminders of Washington's role as a gentleman southern farmer, worlds apart from the hectic pace of today's capitol.

Just down the river at Gunston Hall lived the Washington's neighbor George Mason. An almost forgotton member of the leadership group in early America, George Mason's home and grounds were more impressive and more "reachable" than tourist draped Mount Vernon. Well back from the road, just south of the Pohick church he shared with Washington, Mason's home is a delight in many ways. Almost alone in the place, I could pose an unusually long string of questions to the well-informed docent. The support buildings include a laundry and a school with the school master's room above. Horses grazing in a corral and a fine new exhibit center-gift shop add to the visitor's enjoyment. Best of all are the extensive formal gardens of boxwood hedges which are most impressive when viewed from the second story windows. Mason, the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights (basis for the national declaration by Jefferson), left a study with a ladder given to him by his good friend Jefferson and his special chair to ease his gout.

Across the state from the Potomac is the small but well preserved Sully Plantation (1794) of Richard Bland Lee. In the shadow of Dulles Airport, this home of the uncle of Robert E. Lee is only half there. Richard Lee was only

able to complete half of the original architecht's plans, but it is now an ample house for anyone in any age. Typical of an early plantation in the South, Sully, in the small town of Chantilly, has lovely but understated grounds, a covered walk from the separate kitchen to the house, special rising hinges allowing the doors to slide over the carpeting, and a window with initials carved by a young lady's diamond ring. In later years the battles of the Civil War swirled around the house and foragers raided the farm lands.

The soldiers were part of the two battles fought a few miles to the south along the Warrenton-Fairfax Road. Known in the South as the battles of First and Second Manassas (Bull Run to the Union side), the battle site is now a National Battlefield. On these fields the earliest full engagements of the war were fought and General Thomas Jackson won his designation as "Stonewall". The rows of cannon and the field markers are rather sterile monuments to carnage. Most evocative of the battle are the famous stone bridge crossed by the fleeing Union troops and the small tavern on the main road.

Known today as the Stone House, this 1820 building served both sides as a field hospital in the Manassas battles as the lines of conflict surged and ebbed. Surgical tools and blood stained cloth mark the restored interior and several artillery shells remain lodged in the exterior walls. After the war the little tavern on the Warrenton Turnpike returned to its former use and later became a home prior to purchase by the federal government.

Traveling south on state route 29 enroute to Charlottesville, I stopped in the town of Culpepper and visited the Burgandine House (1724) and the Little Fork Episcopal Church (1757) with its original interior designs.

Charlottesville is the center of a complex of historic sites. Jefferson's home at Monticello is one national shrine which easily surpasses the many stories told about it. Its hilltop location offers a panoramic view of the countryside and the University of Virginia below. As if the 6,000 square feet of the main house were not impressive enough, there are tunnels and a musuem beneath the

house, including a special airshaft for waste disposal. Three visits to the Jefferson home were not enough to satisfy my interest.

Below Jefferson's Monticello is the Ash Lawn home of President James Monroe. The front entrance of hedges is too overpowering for the smallish home. However, local artisans practicing their crafts in and around the place create the feeling of a working plantation and their finished products are for sale. The narrow road from the university town to Ash Lawn is typical of rural Virginia and took a pleasant while longer than it should have since I got lost.

North of the city is another little known treasure, the Castle Hill home of Dr. Thomas Walker, one of the first pioneers to move west into Kentucky. Every aspect of this estate is unusual. Located near the Keswick store, one portion of the house was built in 1765 by Walker and this section played host to British troops seeking Virginia governor Thomas Jefferson during the American Revolution. In the 1840s the present front of the house was built of brick by Walker's son-in-law, a member of the Virginia legislature. An excellent tour by a history graduate student from the university revealed small details of this plantation (it has a ghost and was not wired for electricity until the 1940s). Another diamond scratched window (this lady did it twice) and a front lawn in the shape of a giant lady's slipper complete the unconventional picture at Castle Hill. The road back to town passes the Romanesque St. Marks Anglican Church (1809).

Created largely by Jefferson, the University of Virginia (1819) is noted for the serpentine wall (hard to get a top view) and the Rotunda dedicated to him. The present large campus, complete with an enormous pile of coal for the powerplant, has not completely supplanted Jefferson's neo-classical "Academical Village" and its initial student body of 68.

Six American Presidents were born in Virginia. The home of the fourth one that I was able to visit took me into the years after the Civil War. At Staunton, Virginia, Woodrow Wilson was born in the Manse of the Presbyterian church. Although Wilson and his family lived in this 1846 home only a few

years, the home is now a musuem of those early days and of the later career of this President. From the back balcony one can see the college where Wilson's father taught in addition to his role as minister. The plain furnishings of the Wilson's contrast strongly with the elegant Greek Revival home and the Pierce-Arrow sedan in the garage, Wilson's auto during and after his term of office. Comparing the Wilson kitchen with those of the other presidents in Virginia, one is struck by how little things had changed from the early 1800s down to his birth in 1856.

In Richmond, St. John's Church is among the most important places. It was the scene of Patrick Henry's famous speach on liberty. Since Richmond was the capitol of the state and the Confederacy, many American leaders worshiped there over the years. George Wythe, the teacher and mentor of Thomas Jefferson, is the most famous of the important people buried in the churchyard.

Driving east along Tyler highway, through newly planted fields, I arrived at Shirley Plantation. One of the oldest and most history-laden of the tide-water plantations, Shirley was founded in 1613 not long after the arrival of the colonists at Jamestown. Overlooking the James River, the three-story mansion was begun in 1723. A floating staircase and a central heating system are innovations in this building which is still owned by the Carter family. The present Carters live in the upper portions of the home, and the chance to have a young Carter as a guide compensates for the tape recorded messages in some rooms. Robert E. Lee's mother was born here and General Lee was a frequent visitor to Shirley.

Jamestown, one of the oldest places in the United States and the first settlement in Virginia, has been divided in modern times between the state and federal government. The federal operation, at the original site along the river, contains only a theater and museum and the shell of the brick church tower (1639). A few miles inland, the state of Virginia has created Jamestown Festival Park. To celebrate the 350th anniversary of the first landing, the state built a new

Jamestown, a fleet of ships and two large musuem buildings. The settlement is appropriately primitive, especially compared with frontier forts in the West. The three copies of the original ships are tiny, with the smallest, the Discovery, being only 38 feet long. Another living history site, the Festival Park includes craftsmen, uniformed soldiers and costumed residents representing the 170 original colonists. Operated by the federal system, but nearest the restored town, is the first "factory" in America, the Glasshouse. Although this experiment was an economic failure, today's demonstration building, on the original site, is very impressive (it also provides a subtle commercial for the reproduction pottery sold at the store in the federal compound).

Jumping ahead a century in time, Williamsburg is uneaqualed in its re-creation of colonial America. Having visited here on the Classroom-in-the-sky program, I was able to concentrate on those places I had passed by before. Visits to the Cooper shop, the Printing shop (doubling as the post office) the colonial Capitol, and the Magazine were instructive but impersonal. However, having seen his grave and read about his influence on Jefferson, seeing the home of George Wythe was exciting for me. Of particluar interest was his study with the telescope and the cloth kite. In his role as professor at the College of William and Mary, Wythe taught John Marshall and other colonial leaders.

The Governor's Mansion, while a restoration rather than original, captures the elegance of Loyalist Virginia. Grand as the White House or other mansions I had visited might be, this one clearly went further. Wallpaper from China, and furnishings from Europe distinguish this regal home. The concept of conspicuous consumption was clearly evident here, despite the terms of Jefferson and Patrick Henry. The gardens and canal behind the mansion are less formal than those at Gunston Hall, but then they were intended to serve banquets not just a family and guests.

A large crowd gathered for the militia muster at the market square. The company represented the State Guard unit from the Revolutionary War. The line

of muskets was fired, reloaded and the men advanced to fire a second time. On each flank a small cannon of uncertain name was moved forward by three men. While waiting for the one only ten feet from me to fire, focusing on it with my camera, the little beast went off to my great surprise. I was buffeted by the concussion, and the wadding hit my shirt. No picture. After this close encounter with colonial firepower, the discharge of the large field pieces in the distance was anti-climatic.

The colonial tavern, the center of heated political debates and rousing celebrations, seem to me to be the heart of Williamsburg. At Christiana Campbell's Tavern I dined where George Washington did. Down the street the Wetherburn Tavern is not a functioning restraurant but a museum. Tables for those eating, drinking, or playing whist are displayed, while the docent explains how Wetherburn married a widow largely because her husband had left her the establishment. The kitchen behind the tavern was outfitted with a fireplace spit turned by a series of pullies and a well trained dog. The guest rooms were well furnished but tiny.

Of course the buildings and craftsmen of the town are predominant, but the gardens and green places between the homes are also of great interest. It is these colonial resting places that make the original plans of Governor Nicholson live 250 years after he first drew them. The budding trees and tulips and the lawns, still brown in places, set Williamsburg apart from a Disneyland type existence, and provide the full proportion lacking in other places.

A trip to the east, across the deserts and outer fringe of Calfornia and Nevada might be referred to as the "mine tour". Beginning with Randsburg and ending with Virginia City, I visited all of the desert mining towns that were the real sources of wealth which built Sacramento, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Along the Kern-Los Angeles County border, Randsburg and Johannesburg remain living markers for one of the last mineral developments in southern California. In the 1890s, the Yellow Aster mine yielded over $ 12 million dollars worth of gold which helped to keep the southern California economy from being devastated

by the depression which was then wracking the East. Looming up out of the desert, Rand mountain, red and sinister, overpowers the desert below it and seems to defy human investigation. Mining prospered and ebbed at these two sites for the next thirty years, long enough for my father to try his hand at finding wealth here. He had no success, but that knowledge made this visit a type of homecoming for me. Shells of their former glory, the towns live on with the support of tourists and those seeking healthy air or desert materials for their collections.

Dropping down into the Indian Wells Valley (I hadn't realised that I had been climbing into Randsburg, the slope was so gentle) I made a venture into the southern Sierras at Walker Pass. John C. Fremont, among others, crossed this way twice enroute to the conquest of California in the 1840s. At first I was impressed with Joseph Walker's skill in finding the pass at all, hidden as it is well to the north of the apparent "gap" in the mountains. My discovery of the nearby Freeman Junction Indian site proved that Walker had had some help from the first inhabitants of this region. Southern California's most noted bandit of the 1860s and 1870s, Tiburcio Vasquez, made several raids on bullion wagons near the base of this pass. The wealth of both Cerro Gordo and Bodie traveled this road even after Vasquez was caught and hung.

Owens Lake, now dry and dead, is testimony to the success of the great water diversion project organized by engineer William Mulholland for the city of Los Angeles. Still vast in size, the now white and pink mineral salts of the dry bed of Owens Lake can be clearly seen from the road. Several markers along its shore testify to the silver rush here in the 1870s. The mine operators even built two small steam vessels to take a short cut across the lake with the precious cargos bound for San Pedro. Several small patches of irrigated land, a dark green contrast to the bleached desert around them, are reminders that with the water which now flows out of the valley, it would again bloom.

Driving along the eastern flank of the Sierras, my eyes could confirm my textbook understanding of these mountains. They are indeed much more impressive and even forboding from this side. The product of massive geological uplift, these peaks would easily discourage even the most rugged pioneers. Much to my surprise, I learned that the lower Alabama Hills near Lone Pine were the site of hundreds of western movies that I had believed were made nearer Los Angeles.

Cerro Gordo, a little known mining operation of the 1870s, was the first great element in that push into greatness for Los Angeles. Supplies and men in, silver and some gold out, the several mines at Cerro Gordo produced some $ 10 million dollars worth of tangible wealth for the economy of Los Angeles. Later, zinc and lead kept the region and its Yellow Grade Road open into the twentieth century. Mortimer Bellshaw, Remi Nadeau, and the Beaudry Brothers are among the names that built these mines and the city dependent on them.

At more than 8,000 feet over a very rough road, Cerro Gordo was typical of the altitude and isolation of the other mining towns I would encounter. Only here, however, did I back my car into a hole and suffer a three hour delay until some local visitors pulled me out of my precarious location at the top of San Lucas Canyon. My error and the lack of a guide book prevented me from seeing as much of the "town" as I had hoped to. I'll never forget Cerro Gordo.

At Independence, the Inyo County seat of government, I visited the home of Mary Austin whose Land of Little Rain made this valley and Miss Austin famous. Nearby is the cemetary with the remains of the victims of the great 1872 earthquake which almost destroyed Lone Pine.

Mono Lake is a reminder of what Owens Lake once was and it is still the subject of contention between Los Angeles and the local residents. Near the lake, but not overlooking it, is Bodie, a fine state site frozen in time and slowly weathering away. A town of 12,000 in its heyday in the 1880s, Bodie was almost unknown to me before the trip. The flow of $ 30 million in gold

was divided between Los Angeles and San Francisco. This town was too isolated to produce any of its own supplies and so they all came in by wagon, even in the 1930s when the last of several fires killed the place. It gives, in its fossilized state, an excellent idea of what mining towns must have been like.

Crossing the legal border (not a geographical one) into Nevada, I was surprised at Carson City. The old Federal Mint is now a fine museum. The best feature of this operation is the recreation of a hard-rock mine below the building. In a maze of tunnels the visitor can see the timbering procedures needed in the nearby Virginia City mines, along with mine equipment and even ore samples. The building itself is an attractive, fortress-like structure housing the state collections in several categories.

Just as Cerro Gordo built Los Angeles, so Virginia City built San Francisco. At first a disappointment with its tourist hordes and ice cream stands, the side streets of the place and the rugged mountains around it eventually conquered me. Not a ghost town, but a very small one living on its past, Virginia City was the home of Mark Twain and George Hearst. The former office of the Savage Mine is now a musuem and hotel and one of the best spots in town. Here General Grant planned an unsuccessful third term bid, and the operator told me of plans of a large mining company to reopen the long closed Sutro Tunnel, once used to drain water from several mines, in preparation for new digging. The cemetaries, churches frequented by the Cornish miners, and the Fourth Ward School are also a rewarding contrast to the plastic and neon main street.

Passing over Donner Pass and around Donner Lake (not the most interesting story to me), I saw the famous snow sheds of the transcontinental railroad. Still in use, these man-made tunnels reveal the difficulty the Chinese encountered in blasting and tunneling their way across the Sierras. In the dim evening light I was only barely able to see the scars left on the landscape by the hydraulic mining at the Alpha and Omega mining camps just north of Nevada City, California.

The almost sisterly cities of Nevada City and Grass Valley provide a good blend of history and modern, small-town California. Centers of the northern hard-rock district, these towns still have the surface remains of dozens of mines. Most important today is the old Empire Mine State Park at Grass Valley. Unfortunately, most of the buildings were under repair when I visited. The neighboring site of Rough and Ready was a disappointment with only one old building to mark its fame as the only town to ever seceded from California.

Nevada City (just plain Nevada until the state stole its name) has many historic buildings and "feels" like the New England style town it was a century ago. Both gold rush hotels are open for business, and the firehouse and canal building are of interest. The Nevada Theater is larger and newer (1865) than those in Sacramento or Monterey, but it has been in continuous use and is not a restoration. Emma Nevada, Mark Twain, and Jack London performed here. The county musuem has some of the Donner Party relics and a fine Buddhist altar from the old Chinese temple. The Lola Montez home is only a shell. Very little notice is given to the regions aviation pioneer, Lyman Gilmore, who raced the Wrights to be the first to fly and opened the West's first commercial air field.

In Sacramento I visited three historic areas. New Helvetia, the fort of John Sutter, did not provide much information or inspiration. The Victorian Governor's Mansion is more of an architectural and social monument than a historic center. Comfortable more than lavish, the wood painting devastation of Mrs. Hiram Johnson and the tiny room occupied by Jerry Brown were among the most notable portions of the tour.

The restoration work at Old Sacramento, the former derelict buildings along the river, is one of the best rescue efforts of the state parks service. Amidst the shops and restaurants, one can visit the Eagle Theater (another "first" theater) with its imitation but effective canvas walls, the first home of the state Supreme Court, and the sensational railroad museum. Built to

resembles a train station, the building houses many old engines (some that pulled over the Sierras), luxury cars and baggage rooms, all realistically explained over a closed circuit radio system.

The B. F. Hastings building served as the first Sacramento terminus for the Pony Express and now features a communication musuem operated by the state. This 1852 structure also included displays of Wells Fargo Equipment. The nearby Sacramento Union (1851) building housed the first newspaper. A school house from the 1880s has been moved to Front and L streets and restored to that era. The Big Four, Stanford, Huntington, Hopkins, and Crocker, were the most powerful men in the state for almost four decades. They all started here in Sacramento, and in this restoration the Stanford brothers' warehouse on Front street and the building where the four men planned the Central Pacific Railroad, now on K street, have been preserved.

Just north of this history center, the deep blue American River, the original gold panning river, joins the silt-laden Sacramento and the contrasts in the two rivers at their junction point is dramatically visible. Moving south from the state capital, I visited several of the mining towns in the southern mining district.

Along California's "Golden Chain" highway 49 the old Sierra mining towns are spaced like charms on a braclet. Most of the towns are still active with people but not mining. In Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties I compared the remaining features with those I had seen in Nevada and northern districts.

The towns of San Andreas and Angels Camp boast several blocks of buildings dating to the 1850s. The latter was busily preparing for the annual frog jumping contest. Just south of the town the cabin (well at least the chimney with a restored cabin) where Twain made the county and himself famous still stands. He was clearly able to hide out and write, although the traffic over nearby Jackass Hill must have intruded some. Sonora and Jamestown are typical of the blend of old and new in these communities.

The one town devoted only to the old days, the state historic park at

Columbia, is a Williamsburg in the West. The scale is much smaller, but the effect is the same. Staying at the City Hotel (1856), I was able to explore the several blocks of preserved buildings and visit with the merchants and craftsmen at work. Included were the Cheap Cash Store, the Fallon House Theater, two firehouses complete with ancient engines, the Wells Fargo Office, and the brick schoolhouse on the hill north of town. Columbia was purchased and restored by the state in the 1930s, the weekend traffic is heavy but otherwise the town drowses in the sun and operates at a pace very conducive to historical study.

Several brief trips and lectures fit into no pattern and are included here in a miscellaneous category. Galen Fox, a China Specialist for the United States State Department and a fellow student with me at the University of Redlands, was a guest lecturer on the Redlands campus during the China-Vietnam conflict.

His talk was on this dispute and the nature of American-Taiwanese relations. Fox explained the "new" Chinese policy of acceptance of American involvement in the Far East, but cautioned that mainland China would likely remain a friend but not an ally. He expressed concern that China's apparent widespread campaign to dispense information about the rest of the world to the Chinese people might produce unrest. He believes that China's economic growth plan might be too ambitious and if it fails, China might renew political repression and withdraw from the world community. In conclusion he suggested that Taiwan's prosperity would prevent any political problems in the near future, and that the vocal opposition to American recognition of mailland China was mainly rhetoric.

The University sponsored a seminar on China later in the year. The main feature was a four person panel including Robert Pierpoint (an alumni) of CBS News and Bob Rigney of the Engineering Improvement Agency of San Bernardino County. For me Rigney was the star of the show and Pierpoint a disappointment. Rigney had made a recent trip to China to aid the Chinese in the development of several building projects. His slides were most instructive and not the usual tourist view of China. He noted much talk about the equality of the

sexes but little evidence of Chinese women in significant engineering or political positions. On the Great Wall he saw 5,000 year old grafitti. He called the Chinese pragmatic socialists who were now paying 3/4% interest on bank accounts and suffering from pearl gray smog in the Yangtze River factory towns. Many Chinese came up to him, shyly touching him and then retreating, making contact with an American. Redlands professor Jim Milinger reported that on his recent visit he spotted a disparity between the public and private side of the Chineses officals he dealt with: for example, wearing brighter clothes at home and underneath their drab offical "uniforms" worn for foreign eyes. In the small towns they are still practicing the "old line" not found in Peking and the urban centers. The small town kids still sing tunes like, "I love to serve warm milk tea to Chairman Mao in the morning". He reported major advances in housing, health care and pensions in the several years since an earlier visit.

The adobe home of Saturnino Carrion (1868) has long been in private hands and in a state of disrepair. Located near Brackett Field in La Verne, this is the only local adobe I had not visited. The owners are now restoring it and held a special open house. One is first struck by the small size of the building, it is dwarfed by the giant eucalyptus trees in the front. In a pleasant location, the Carrion adobe will be a fine complement to the other adobes when it is complete.

The Pasadena Historical Society also held and open house in the Curtin-Paloheimo Mansion which serves as its headquarters. In the museum room in the basement are many treasures from the rich historical heritage of this city. Maps and furnishings from the famous hotels in the city and mementos of the many decades of the Rose Parade are the largest collections. The photos in two areas were of such interest to me that I made several more trips to Pasadena to research the topics of the Mt. Lowe railroad and the flight of Cal Rogers who crash-landed in Pasadena before completing his cross country flight in 1911. In addition to photos and displays, the museum also has a good collection of books and manuscripts which were of value in my investigations.

The most extensive research project undertaken during my sabbatical was on the history of El Monte, the oldest American town in southern California. This research involved two particular periods in El Monte history, 1840-1860 and 1940-1970 in an intensive search, and less detailed work on the intervening eighty years. This research was primarily related to my course in southern California history, but many features of the investigation are related to the courses on United States and California history.

Most of the research was conducted in the extensive collection of the El Monte historical society museum. Additional hours were spent at the Henry Huntington Library, the Alhambra Public Library and the offices of the San Gabriel Valley Tribune. At the Huntington I was gathering material on El Monte in the years before 1850. At the Alhambra library I was reading microfilm of the Alhambra Advocate, 1897-1904 (the years just prior to the establishment of a newspaper in El Monte). At the Tribune offices I was reading the back issues of the El Monte Herald, 1941-1969.

I focused on the earliest and latest periods of El Monte history because a substantial amount of new material had been developed about the former, and the latter had recieved little attention from researchers. The new material consisted of letters, diaries, state and county records, recently published books and sources overlooked in my prior research on this subject completed in the 1960s. The research on the recent years in El Monte came primarily from the files of the Herald and the El Monte Press, but scrapbooks, school records and personal accounts also were included. In all aspects of the history of this community, much more material was discovered than I anticipated. As a result, I completed more research and less writing that I had planned. The writing which was completed is found in a separate section submitted with this report. The major conclusions and information learned from this research, but not included in this writing are sumarised here.

Prior to any permanent settlement at El Monte there was a limited amount

of activity in the region by Indians, explorers and missionaries. In the 1850s the reputation long held by El Monte as a wide-open, violent community had been over emphasized. There were two groups in the community, peaceful farmers and younger, more vigilante like citizens. There was more farming activity in areas outside of El Monte than previously suspected. El Monte and all of the Los Angeles County area experienced a moderate economic boom in the years between 1900 and 1910. El Monte citizens played a substantial role in county and state political and historical organizations.

In the years between 1910 and 1950 several films were made at El Monte, including the epic Birth of A Nation. El Monte played a prominent role in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses in the years when chariot racing was featured. During the Second World War the involvement of the community (and indeed all of the nation) in a total effort was even more complete than the textbook versions of the struggle. Long before the current controversy over federal dam building projects and state freeway planning, El Monte did battle with these forces from outside of the community. Both the Whittier Narrows Dam and the Ramona (now San Bernardino) Freeway were opposed with varying degrees of success. The rapid growth of southern California in the 1950s found El Monte and her neighbor cities unprepared to handle it. Finally accepting growth as inevitable, El Monte joined the other towns in the often bitter battle to incorporate and annex new portions of land.

The fear of the spread of polio and smog were major issues in the early 1950s in El Monte and the region. However, the same all-out efforts mounted against the Nazis or even the Whittier Dam are not in evidence. Paralleling the growth in population during and after, there was a much earlier and stronger surge in business activity than previously believed. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the community turned more and more to outside areas of interest, a result of the influence of television and the freeways. El Monte was no longer by itself, but was more and more becoming part of the Los Angeles megaloppolis.

The inevitable result of population growth and cultural homogeneity was the decline in community spirit and sense of unique identity. The decline and final death of the Herald is evidence of this syndrome in modern America. Of course the town did not die with the paper (now an almost indistinguishable part of the Tribune chain of papers), but the researcher's primary avenue of contact with the people and their history makes sharply defined conclusions hard to achieve.

Today El Monte is an economic and governmental center of importance in the San Gabriel Valley. Her police department has been studied by criminologists and psychologists as a model for suburban law enforcement. The preservation and celebration of her history are very important to the community. No town in southern California has a longer, prouder, or more varied history and the community and region at large need to be told this story.

CHAPTER I

INDIAN AND SPANISH SETTLEMENTS

The first inhabitants of the green and fertile land along the San Gabriel River were Indians. According to recent archeological discoveries, humans have lived in Southern California for over 40,000 years. However, written records and surviving artifacts provide a clear picture of Indian life in this region for only the centuries since 1600 A.D.

The Indian villages near the present San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo (where the two flow parallel in El Monte) were populated by people of Shoshonean racial stock. Thus they were related to the natives of the Mojave Desert, Nevada and Utah. Spanish explorers and missionaries, arriving in 1769 from Mexico, established friendly ties with the Indians living in what the Europeans called rancherias (small towns).

Seeking well-watered, defensible locations in which to begin their task of religious conversion, the Franciscan fathers built the first San Gabriel Arcangel mission just west of present day El Monte near the boundary of what is now Montebello. Disregarding most of the local Indians' geographical and tribal names, in order to promote the adoption of Spanish terms, the padres called the native people Gabrielinos after the mission. This designation has since applied to all of the native peoples in Los Angeles and northern Orange counties.

The Spanish always built their missions in areas with abundant Indian population and the earliest baptismal records indicate that there were several villages at or near the site of today's El Monte. Ouiichi (or Ouiichingna) and Houtngna were both located along the river near the mission.[1] Isantcagna was a few miles to the south of Paso de Bartolo near today's Whittier Boulevard, while Chokishngna and Swagna were even further down stream.[2] Eastward at today's La Puente, Awigna was perhaps the largest of these settlements. It is very probable that other, smaller villages existed near the larger ones; their names and locations have not been preserved.

The Gabrielinos were a gathering people, subsisting primarily on the acorns harvested from the several varieties of oak trees which grew in abundance in Southern California. Undoubtedly the residents of Ouiichi and Houtngna did more fishing than their neighbors, using their catch for food and trading the surplus to other villages. Supplementing their acorn mush diet with a wide variety of fruits and nuts and meat from small animals caught in snares, the Gabrielinos lived a simple life. Basketweaving, their main handicraft,

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[1] Bernice Johnston, California's Gabrielino Indians, The Southwest Museum, 1962, pages 142, 171-172, and the front map.

[2] David Lindsey and Martin Schiesel, "Whittier Narrows Flood Control Basin Historic Resources Survey." Unpublished. Prepared for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Regional Office, 1976.

produced beautiful containers for harvesting and storing acorns and other food. Woven extra tightly and lined with tar, some of these baskets also functioned as water carriers. Tools fashioned from animal bones or stone, and soapstone bowls and carved animal figures obtained in trade with Indians from coastal villages constituted their remaining inventory of possessions.

Lacking any highly developed political structures and constructing no great buildings, the Gabrielinos commonly suffer when historians compare them with the Indians of Mexico or the eastern United States. However, any such comparisons are both unfair and misleading. The Gabrielinos did not need a more complex lifestyle to survive and they suffered less from starvation than most of their cousins in other regions of North America. Like people everywhere, these Indians employed only the practices, crops, and skills which necessity forced upon them.

Simple jacles or brush huts provided the minimal shelter the Indians needed in this semi-arid land. A framework of branches covered with brush or reeds in a small dome-like pattern provided shelter from storms and for each evenings' sleep. When insect pests or a season's use rendered the jacles unlivable, they were burned and the people moved into fresh quarters nearby.

The most important of many Gabrielino gods, Chinigchinich, was honored in a ceremony of music, dancing

and ritual smoking.[3] Musical instruments including rattles and whistles were fashioned from plants or bones. The worshipers painted their bodies and wore costumes made from bird feathers. Long hours of dancing at the Chinigchinich shrine and smoking of wild tobacco and Jimson week resulted in hallucinations and "visions." Unfortunately, miscalculations about the potency of Jimson weed sometimes resulted in severe reactions or even death.

The cultist shaman who led these and other rituals is the nearest the Gabrielinos came to a village leader. Neither a council or chief system ever evolved. The very abundance of food, game and land space militated against any organizations for the conquest or control of territory or villages. Conflicts and violence were commonly of a personal or family nature, settled quickly by flight or death.

Today's Californians are endlessly surprised to learn that the local Indian population numbered in the hundreds rather than tens of thousands. However, Southern California was more densely populated than other Indian regions. Thus the Franciscans welcomed the opportunity to Christianize such friendly, contented and comparatively numerous people.

Spanish soldiers and missionaries established their first California colony at San Diego in 1769. Gaspar de

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[3]James R. Moriarty, Chinigchinix, An Indigenous California Indian Religion, The Southwest Museum, 1969.

Portola, the governor of the new province, led an expedition of sixty-four men northward toward Monterey, evaluating the countryside and population enroute. Camping at Bassett, Padre Juan Crespi, chronicler of the expedition, provides the first European view of the El Monte district and San Jose Creek, a major tributary of the San Gabriel River. He reported finding ". . . a broad and spacious plain of fine black earth with much grass. . ." Traveling further, writes Crespi,

> We came to an arroyo of water [San Jose Creek], which flows among many green marshes, their banks covered with willows and grapes, blackberries and innumerable Castillian rosebushes loaded with roses. In the verdure runs a good channel of water. . . [It] can be easily used to irrigate the large area of good land the valley has.[4]

Moving slowly, the party camped again just south of El Monte. Crespi complained about the "brush and low woods, which delayed us a long time, making it necessary to cut the brush down at every step that was taken."[5]

Abundant water, even in the summer months, thick vegetation and plentiful game, these observations by Crespi were repeated by a succession of Spanish and American explorers. Six months later, Portola's party again camped on the banks of the San Gabriel at El Monte on their return march to San Diego. The campsite was not given a specific name on either occasion, although the river was then known as the San Miguel.

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[4]Herbert Boulton, Diary of Father Juan Crespi, pp. 143-144.

[5]Ibid.

The travelers did not forget this green valley, however, and just two years later Father Junipero Serra directed Frs. Angel Somera and Pedro Benito Cambon to establish a mission at some favorable location north of San Diego. After considering and rejecting a place on the Santa Ana River, the two churchmen settled on a site just to the southwest of El Monte between the Rio Hondo and present day San Gabriel Boulevard.[6] The place had "good growth of cottonwoods, willows and other trees, thickets of blackberries, and innumerable wild grape vines. . . /and/ nearby there was a large grove of live oaks."[7] After celebrating an outdoor mass on September 8, 1771, the padres directed the soldiers and the Indian assistants in the building of a log chapel and other necessary structures, all of which were enc-osed by a sturdy stockade sixty varas square (a vara equals 2.8 feet). Several months after completing California's fourth mission, the Spaniards undertook their program of converting and civilizing the Gabrielinos. Several incidents of violence impeded their work, but the early harvests were encouraging. By early 1775 the mission possessed over 200 head of livestock (cattle, sheep and horses, etc.) and nearly 150 Indian neophytes lived in their jacles near the stockade.[8]

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[6]Lindsey and Schiesel, op. cit., p. 8 and plate No. 4.

[7]Herbert Boulton, op. cit., pp. 323-324, Vol. 2.

[8]Junipero Serra, Report to the Governor, 1775, letter no. 13. Lindsey and Schiesel, p. 11.

Excessive dampness and floods which damaged the irrigation system and crops led Serra's assistant, Fermin Lasuen, to relocate the mission five miles northwest on its present site in the city of San Gabriel.

Almost simultaneously with the relocation of the mission, the arrival of the two land expeditions from Sonora led by Captain Juan Bautista de Anza greatly strengthened the shaky Spanish hold on California. Portions of both of the de Anza expeditions passed through El Monte, the second one bringing 240 settlers and a herd of two hundred cattle.[9] These settlers and animals provided the nucleus for all later growth at San Gabriel, San Jose and other valley missions and pueblos.

Over the ensuing sixty years the San Gabriel mission flourished as the queen of the missions, the undisputed agricultural leader for the province of California. The Indians flocked to the Spanish outpost and at some undetermined date they abandoned the villages at El Monte. However, as late as 1947, some Indian artifacts from a village or camp site were discovered by archeologists just north of the first mission location at the Flores Ranch along Muscatel Street.[10]

The Franciscans' imposing power over the land and the people was temporary. The padres and the church never owned

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[9]Herbert Boulton, Diary of Father Garces, pp. 247-248. Juan B. de Anza, Journal of the 1775-1776 Expedition, pp. 78-79.

[10]Rittner Sayles, "Exploration of San Gabriel River Site No. 1," Nov., 1955.

the land they occupied in the name of the King. Undeterred by the constant threat of dispossession, the Franciscans developed vast herds and crop lands throughout the San Gabriel Valley and particularly at El Monte and La Puente. Some 50,000 grape vines once ripened their succulent harvest along the streams and rivers within a few miles of the mission. So great was the production of grain at Puente that in 1846 the mission fathers built a granary there.

It is possible, although not certain, that one or more of the adobes still present at El Monte in the 1850's date from that same time.[11] At the apex of its wealth, during the 1820's, more than 30,000 head of cattle, horses, hogs and sheep grazed on the mission's borrowed acres.

During these prosperous years, the first Americans arrived at the mission, adding to the record their favorable descriptions of the valley and El Monte. Jedediah Smith, a partner in the fledgling Rocky Mountain Fur Company, led two parties of American fur trappers down the Colorado River and across the Mojave Desert in 1826 and 1828. On both occasions, Smith and his tired company made prolonged stops with the friendly padres at the mission. Although the mountain men passed some miles north of El Monte, their relief at being in the valley is evident. Glimpsing herds of cattle and wild horses for the first time since leaving the midwest, ond diarist enthused, "But now the scene

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[11]Lindsey and Schiesel, op. cit., plates 3 and 4, L.A. County Field Map No. 15213.

changed. . . it certainly seemed to enchant us. Our path was through a fertile and well watered valley. . ."[12] Unwittingly, Smith's party and those who followed established a path into Southern California which served as the first link between Los Angeles and Santa Fe. It became known as the Spanish Trail; the majority of the traders and muleteers who traveled this desert path were Americans.

This 1830's trade changed the area only slightly, but the descriptions of Southern California filtering back to Santa Fe and Texas would indirectly lead later Americans to El Monte. In the meantime, the men exchanging California livestock for Santa Fe silver witnessed a profound change in the political and economic structure in California. Winning her independence from Spain in 1821, Mexico moved finally to terminate the mission system. In 1834, over the heated protests of the Franciscans, the missions became only parish churches and the vast tracts of land they had managed were converted into rancho grants parcelled out to those applying to the governor at Monterey.

The change proved disastrous for the Indians. Further, the system of agriculture changed almost entirely to grazing. Herds of cattle and horses decimated the former crop lands. Interestingly, in light of later experiments at El Monte, an early observer reports the presence of a considerable

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[12]George R. Brooks, The Southwestern Expedition of Jedediah Smith, 1826-1827, 1977, pp. 99-100.

amount of wild cotton near the mission prior to secularization. Within ten years it and other mission farming efforts had almost disappeared.[13]

More animals than humans populated the San Gabriel Valley in the 1830's and 1840's. Some of the land given out in rancho grants was not actively operated for decades after the original transaction. This land uninhabited by rancheros or Indians included El Monte. Unoccupied land grants and transfers of title prevent a clear understanding of these decades and this confusion bred distrust and legal tangles for many years.

Combining the trend toward cattle raising and increased American involvement in Southern California were two men fleeing political trouble in Santa Fe. Arriving in 1841, John Rowland of Maryland and Englishman William Workman received a grant of 48,000 acres and moved their families and some relatives onto the land at La Puente Rancho. They were unaware that they would soon be joined by many others leaving the southwest for Southern California.

Just recovering from a serious depression, Mexico's American neighbor began to cast covetous eyes on California's pastoral empire. The province remained isolated from the seat of political and military power thousands of miles to the south. An even more dangerous problem existed in the

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[13]Gardner, Letters from California, 1846-1847, Los Angeles, University of California Press, 1970, pp. 98-99.

chronic underpopulation. More than any single factor, California's small and essentially non-political population contributed to the forthcoming American takeover.

CHAPTER II

SETTLEMENT

While the war between Mexico and the United States (1846-1848) included two noisy, almost bloodless battles here, little change occurred in the valley. However, events resulting from the shift in political control led to the settlement of El Monte as the first American-era town in Southern California.

The brief seige at the Chino adobe of Isaac Williams and the cannon duel known as the Battle of the San Gabriel River (where today it crosses the boulevard) marked the end of Mexican control here. News of the official transfer of power under the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848 paled before the stronger cry of "gold." The path west from New Mexico and Texas, a mere backwater compared with the more popular and famous Sierra Nevada route, brought many thousands of gold seekers into the Los Angeles basin. Tired and parched, some of these pioneers angrily denounced army lieutenant William Emory's encouraging description of the path along the Gila River /Emory was a member of General Kearney's 1846 army/.[14]

Stopping first at the Chino rancho or John Rowland's adobe at La Puente, this steady stream of men noted the

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[14] William R. Hutton, Glances at California, 1847-1853, The Huntington Library, 1942, pp. 24 and 28.

richness of the El Monte region but did not tarry. Wild oats, clover, hemp and mustard were seen by men clustered around fires of bois de vache (cattle chips).[15] Pausing for lunch along the river just north of El Monte, forty-niner Benjamin Harris reported "throwing a wild, unbroken horse gently on a bank of sand; he soon yielded and became a fair saddle animal on the same afternoon."[16]

Seeking gold and land too, wagon trains of families made their way down the western branch of the Santa Fe Trail. Some were moving on again following a few years' residence in Texas or New Mexico, but others set out directly from the midwest or south. They confirmed the long existing American pioneer tendency toward a pattern of horizontal migration.[17] Immigrant trains formed, split and regrouped at many points along the way, because this southern route lay across territory already partially populated.

The census of 1850, delayed in Southern California until early 1851, provides some clues to those already living

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[15] George W. B. Evans, Mexican Gold Trail, Glen Dumke, ed., 1945, pp. 186-188. Record Book, Rancho Santa Ana del Chino.

[16] Benjamin B. Harris, The Gila Trail, University of Oklahoma, 1960, p. 98.

[17] Franklin Owsley, Plain Folk, University of Kentucky, 1954, pp. 57-58, 59-60.

at El Monte. The families of Dr. Obed Macy and Samuel Heath had arrived in February of 1851. Thomas Orchard, Robert Taylor, and John Woodward were recorded at El Monte or nearby.[18] Living in the region were future El Monte citizens Nicholas Schmidt, Almira Hale (Los Angeles), and Grant P. Cuddeback (La Puente Rancho). Beyond this official listing, complete certainty about the names and arrival dates of the pioneers cannot exist. A century later, incomplete family records and frequent moves between census counts discourage an accurate account. However, allowing for some discrepancies, the names of most of the early families may be listed. (Please refer to the Pioneer Register.)

In the spring and summer months of 1851 and 1852 several wagon trains of various sizes arrived, camping along the river and creating a real settlement. While several diary accounts of the arduous trek to El Monte exist, space limits us to only a few of these stories.

Perhaps the most famous group to leave for Southern California failed to reach their goal. In the early summer of 1850 one hundred settlers in thirty wagons set out from Independence, Missouri. Most in this train were Brewsterites, a splinter sect of Mormons, followers of James C. Brewster. At Las Vegas, New Mexico Territory, eight

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[18]Census of 1850, Marco R. Newmark, pp. 24-25, 90-92. In the absence of towns, the census was recorded by ranchos.

families left the main party to pursue a faster path across the mountains toward the Colorado River. The families of Ira Thompson, Royce Oatman and six others reached Tucson on January 8, 1851.[19]

Fatefully, this small party split again at Tucson, where the Thompsons and four other families chose to rest longer. Eager to reach their goal, the Oatman, Kelly and Wilder families pushed on across the desert. Weeks of travel further divided the travelers, so that when a band of Indians met them on February 18, 1851, the Oatmans were alone near the Gila River. After an argument with Royce Oatman, the club-wielding Yavapais attached the couple and their seven children. Only three children survived the massacre. Olive, 13, and Mary Ann, 7, were taken captive. Lorenzo, 14, who was seriously wounded, feigned death. Recovering and rejoining the other families in the group, Lorenzo Oatman reached El Monte a few months later. He lived with the David Lewis family, hoping his lost sisters would be rescued. He could not know that Mary Ann had died of exposure within a few months of her capture. In the ensuing five years, Lorenzo moved to San Francisco, mined in the desert and returned to El Monte to resume a life of farming.[20]

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[19]Parrish Diary, WPA History. Pettid, Arizona Highways, November, 1968, p. 6. J. Ross Browne, Harpers, 1864 (November), p. 100.

[20]Letters from Lorenzo to his uncle Jonathan in Missouri, May 19, 1854 and May 15, 1855. Copies at the El Monte Museum.

While living on his El Monte farm in February of 1856, he received the miraculous news of Olive's ransom. Joining her brother, the now tatooed, but unharmed heroine stopped for a few weeks at the Willow Grove Hotel run by her friends the Thompsons before pursuing her recovery elsewhere. Following her graduation from college, Olive Oatman lectured frequently on her captivity and the Indian people before her marriage in 1865.[21]

More conventional, but still brimming with frontier spirit are the records of the Samuel King and John Cleminson trips in 1852. Leaving Silver City, New Mexico Territory on July 8, 1852, the Kings and four other families marked their progress in terms of the necessities of life, grass, wood and water.

> Next thirty miles, deserted ranch with plenty /of/ grass but little wood; next twenty miles, a running branch with plenty of grass and wood at an old deserted ranch. Next eight miles a cottonwood spring and fine grass; next twenty-two miles, twelve or fourteen of which were through mountains of the worst description. . .[22]

Following their desert adventure, the Kings and their sons, along with the John Thurman and Samuel Thompson families, settled at El Monte while others in their party went on to San Gabriel.

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[21]San Bernardino County Museum Association article. Butterfield Express winter 1968. Stratton book on capture in 1850's.

[22]El Monte Herald, July 14, 1933. IOOF book, Dr. Mayes in same group?

John Cleminson, 17, joined a larger party of seventeen wagons departing from McGriffin Springs, Indian Territory /Eastern Oklahoma/ in July of 1851. As they walked or rode along, the members of this party "saw the elephant," in the parlance of that time, with new experiences occurring in a sometimes discouraging pattern. Young Cleminson and his friends took many wrong turns and made frequent errors of judgment, as did many thousands of others. In overcoming both the terrain and their own missteps, these settlers reveal their humanity as well as their stalwart courage:

> August 20, 1851. We had several messes of bear meat, a new article of food to most of the company.
>
> August 23. During our stay at this place 2 trains pass us on their return to the states.
>
> October 1. At a distance of 9 miles to the right we found some water in holes. The water is of a red color as is most generally the case in this part of the country.
>
> October 29. One family left our company this morning deciding to remain at the fort. Our number is now reduced to half the quantity of wagons since starting from states.
>
> November 12. 4 wagons of our train taking the right hand road to the copper mines. /near Socorro, New Mexico/. . . three families in six wagons push on to the Colorado River.
>
> November 13. Cold night. Water froze 1/2 inch thick.
>
> November 14. Distance 20 miles. Concluded we are on the wrong road.
>
> November 17. . . . on our front is a very extensive valley containing to all appearances a large body of water which we supposed to be the Gila, but after traveling half the day found to our mortification that it was only a very extensive range of sand which in the rainy season is covered with water.

December 14. This morning found 16 of our best oxen missing. We have only enough teams left for four wagons. 2 will have to be left out of the 6. Many useful articles and very necessary ones must be left. . .

December 15. Only a week's provisions on hand. Ignorant of the distance to a settlement. Prospects gloomy. Lightened up one of the wagons so that young men could draw it along by hand.

December 18. . . . our children found plenty of diamonds in the banks of the stream. Diamonds such as are used in cutting glass. /A member of the party gathering nuts is killed by Indians 400 years from camp./

January 3, 1852. This evening one of our company of the sixk number breathed her last. This was Rebecca Crain, aged 58.

April 6. Pass the site of the Oatman Massacre. All the property of any value and use to the murderers has been carried away. In our search we found a paper box on which was written the name of Lucy Oatman. /The eldest daughter of the Oatmans./

April 9. Threw away two feather beds this morning, and a chest to lighten our load. Many wagons have been left on this road.

April 18. /At Yuma on the Colorado River./ We find it a very difficult matter to obtain provisions here. Flour 50 cts. Sugar 50 cts. Coffee 75 cts. Only four head of cattle left. /The party was unable to move without more food and wagons and became reliant on the government outpost at Yuma./

April 26, 1852. /In order to accompany an Army supply train leaving for San Diego/, we sold upwards of 60 dollars worth of tools for 8 dollars. Sold the last remaining 3 yead of cattle in order to get along. Nothing left of use but clothing. Left 8 chests full of various articles of value /at Yuma/.[23]

Here the diary ends its poignant and courageous account. In the fall of 1852 the Cleminson family arrived

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[23]The Cleminson Diary. El Monte Landmark. Vol. I, Nos. 6, 7 and 8, September 1962 through January 1963.

at San Bernardino, where they lived until they moved to their permanent home at El Monte in 1857.

Similar obstacles and travail undoubtedly befell other pioneers on their way to El Monte. By the fall of 1852 several hundred people, after selling or dismantling their wagons, made a fresh start at El Monte.[24] Then known as Lexington, after the Kentucky home of wagon train leader Captain Michael Johnson, the new village proved a harbinger of the change toward a farming economy. In the 1850's the newcomers tamed the land and established a pleasant way of life.

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[24]Hutton, op. cit., p. 71. WPA, p. 12. Harlow, op. cit., pp. 11-12.

CHAPTER III

SETTLEMENT

Although far from smooth, the course of early El Monte history enjoyed the benefits of a succession of favorable weather conditions. Records indicate a freedom from droughts or floods during most of the 1850's. These calamities of nature would soon enough plague the pioneer farmers. Disputes over land titles and the crimes typical of the west troubled the lives of some El Monte residents, but these conditions did not hinder steady progress in building cultural, economic and legal institutions.

Although the settlement was known as Lexington, the larger surrounding area retained the designation of Monte, or The Monte, after the profusion of willows along the river. Recognizing the legal and political realities of the new community, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors created Monte Township on August 8, 1853.[25] The 120,000 acres of the new township stretched from Downey to the mountains and eastward to today's Covina and Walnut. Included within its boundaries were the former ranchos of La Merced, La Puente, Los Coyotes, Paso de Bartolo, Potrero Chico, Potrero Grande, Potrero de Felipe and Cienega. Over the years rancho lands were added and subtracted, but well into the twentieth century the Monte Township remained an extensive

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[25]Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Minute Book No. 1, July 1852 to July 1855.

political unit. Rather like a county within a county, the Monte Township had its "seat of government" and most of its population at Lexington. This was at the junction of ranchos La Puente, San Francisquito and Potrero Grande. Immediately to the west of town were the frequently contested lands retained by the San Gabriel Mission at the time of secularization in 1835. Throughout the fifties and well into the sixties, legal battles over land claims and titles raged all over the state. Several factors complicated this whirlpool of harsh words and open threats of violence. In 1846 California's last Mexican governor and El Monte's neighbor, Pio Pico, completed many last minute land grants. Acting as politicians have both before and since, Pico's hurried signatures produced questions in the minds of many settlers. The whole business of prior land titles clashed with the American practice of government land sales and auctions. For more than a half century Americans had settled new land first and obtained legal title later, often many years later.

While no blood was spilled over land title questions, many El Monte farmers encountered hostile sentiments from some of the large rancheros. Pio Pico, Juan Matias Sanchez and Francis P. F. Temple remained on very cordial terms with their new neighbors to the north. However, the two English dons in the valley east of El Monte found little good to say about the Monte citizens. Henry Dalton of Ranchos Azusa and San Francisquito and William Workman of the La Puente Rancho considered the settlers trespassers on their land, although

the courts eventually ruled against them.[26] Dalton indiscriminately labeled all who ventured onto "his" land as El Monteans. Court records reveal legal payments for much of Dalton's property, and the public land status of the ex-mission lands claimed by Workman was legally accepted. The predilection these landowners had for the manoral type of agriculture and the accompanying class system common in England clashed headon with the American system introduced at El Monte. The personal and economic tragedies which later befell both Dalton and Workman did not result from their lost claims to El Monte soil.

Even with these clouded land titles, the farmers at Monte pushed ahead with the development of Southern California's first small scale grain and vegetable farms. Over the years, El Monte has been known for many firsts and many distinctive events or activities. Farming the land, less exciting or notorious than the others, has endured longest, providing the village and later town with prosperity and stability.

Operations of 40 and 80 acres were typical. The presence of the river and San Jose Creek and even a few remaining irrigation ditches from the first mission provided only a portion of the farmers' water needs. The invisible natural conditions of the place really made El Monte an

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[26]Sheldon Jackson, English Ranchero in California. Hubert H. Bancroft, History of California, Vol. 5, pp. 561, 627-629. Hayes, Notes, p. 216.

agricultural phenomenon. All of the water from most of the west San Gabriel Valley was historically forced to flow through the Whittier Narrows. "However, passage through the gorge is impeded underground. . ." said Thomas F. Hoult, "by a fault which has pushed a natural rick dike (called the "Whittier Fault") close to the surface at the Narrows. Passage of water through the Narrows therefore is restricted in depth as well as in width."[27] The result was that for more than a century El Monte was blessed with a very high water table. Indeed, adequate drainage of swamp land was often a greater problem than an adequate water supply.

With exaggeration typical of that era, farmers voiced mock complaints about willow tent poles in their temporary canvas homes taking root and sprouting new greenery.[28] The basic crop on these farms as it was all across the nation on the frontier, was corn. An easily tended crop with many uses, corn brought a fine price on the Los Angeles market.[29] The 1,600 acres planted to corn in 1855 brought nearly $3.00 per bushel, or ten times the price in Texas. Farmers reported yields of up to 60 bushels per acre.

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[27]Thomas F. Hoult, "The Whittier Narrows, A Study in Conflict and Cooperation," M.A. thesis, Whittier College, 1948, p. 4. W. R. Olden, Anaheim Gazette, 1875, p. 4.

[28]Los Angeles Star, July 14, 1855. Horace Bell, Reminiscences of a Ranger, 1926, p. 386.

[29]Los Angeles Star, April 14, 1855. Thrall, "Scraps of Mountain History," Southern California Quarterly, 1951, pp. 64-65. Everett Dick, Dixie Frontier, p. 99.

With nature's bounty available to them, the Monte farmers' greatest concern stemmed from a new state law. In deference to rancheros, the legislature enacted the Trespass Act of 1850. This pro-cattleman concept placed the burden of fence building on the farmers at a time when the scarcity of milled lumber and high interest rates made fencing and farming a double difficult matter.[30] In trying to obey this vexing law and still develop their land, Monte farmers resorted to natural live fences made of willow hedges or even broad leaved cactus.[31] During the twenty years the law existed, El Monte farmers encountered little serious trouble with roving cattle. Proper fences eventually replaced the hedges and by 1860 the farmers could boast "a third of all the fenced land south of the Coast Range."[32] The next year's corn harvest of 30,000 bushels was taken to John Rowland's La Puente Mill.[33]

Travelers, always impressed with the Monte's flourishing farms, spread the news to others in their reports. The State Agriculture Society, created by the California legislature in 1854, sent a delegation to the southern counties the following year. Fielding W. Gibson's farm attracted

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[30]Robert G. Cleland, Cattle on a Thousand Hills, 1950, pp. 62 and 163.

[31]Smith, "Parsons Progress in the West," Southern California Quarterly, 1939, p. 75. The law was repealed in 1972.

[32]Gates, op. cit., pp. 215-216.

[33]California State Agricultural Society, Report for 1856, pp. 18-19.

their attention and the committee reported observing "seventy acres of corn, five acres of broom corn, one acre of peanuts, a patch of sweet potatoes, two acres of potatoes, seven acres of oats, six acres of wheat, one acre of onions, one acre of crowder peas, and a small cotton patch."[34] One of the township's largest land owners, Gibson purchased his 250 acre farm from Henry Dalton and raised stock on the fields not planted to vegetables or grain.[35]

Los Angeles County Assessor's records indicate that in 1856 El Monte produced 45 percent of the corn, 45 percent of the wheat and 99 percent of the oats in the county.[36] In addition, the records reveal 400 apple trees and 1,500 grape vines planted. The animal population included 386 cows (presumably mostly dairy cattle), 212 horses and 200 hogs. Most farms kept a milk cow, and many produced enough butter to be sold "in commercial quantities."[37] Hogs later became the leading animal.

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[34] Ibid.

[35] Gates, op. cit., p. 100. Newmark, op. cit., p. 91. Thompson and West, History of Los Angeles County in 1880, p. 186. Gibson purchased 448 acres in 1880.

[36] Thompson and West, op. cit., p. 133.

[37] WPA, op. cit., p. 24. Gates, op. cit., p. 216 (for 1860).