



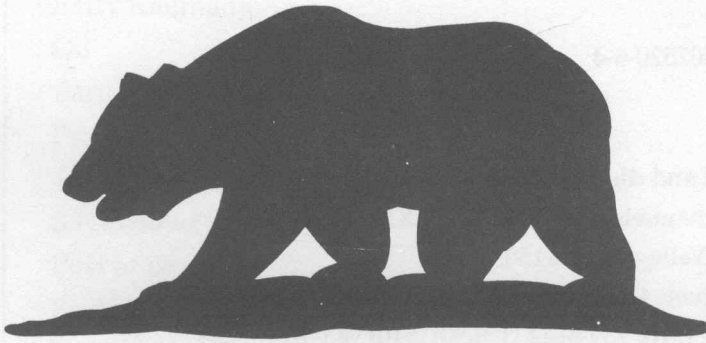
CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC



A MID - CALIFORNIA
ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

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A MID - CALIFORNIA ILLUSTRATED HISTORY



By

George Emanuels

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A MID – CALIFORNIA ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

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Acknowledgments

While I am listed as the Author of this book, it came into being as a family affair.

My wife Helen, saw each page first and offered suggestions for their improvement. Son Roger, edited and later typeset the entire work. Son Fred with his wife Claire, corrected my punctuations and proofread too. Our daughter, Joan Pickering, proofread and made a number of suggestions which I acted on to improve and make the book more readable. Fred took several pictures, driving scores of miles in the process.

Many others helped by supplying photographs to whom I will try to give recognition. If I omit anyone I plead for forgiveness. They are: Bob Colin, Janet Joseph, Laura Clark and Robert Halligan of CalTrans. Alison Moncriess, Alan Beilharz, and Toshiro Koruma of the California State Parks have been very helpful. Mary Ellen Baldwin of Davis went out of her way to get me some dates. Clarence Compton, Ned Dodds, William De Poy, Dave Do-play, Bill and Tillie Larkins, Rick Lester, Timothy Moore, William Marshall, William Sturm, Lisa Dapprich, Lynelle Johnson, Patricia Huff, and Robert Watson, thanks to each of you who gave of your special talents.

George Emanuels

Introduction

On one of my calls on Larry's Book Nook of Walnut Creek, the proprietor, Larry Sydes, ordered some books and then surprised me with, "You know the next book you write is one that I get requests for regularly and don't have."

Larry explained, "People who are leaving the State or going back east for one reason or another, often come in asking for a history which covers our area as well as the country on the way to the mountains through Stockton and Sacramento. They include the area up to Fort Ross on the coast and down to Big Sur. My answer has to be, 'We don't have a book like that.'"

So here is a title which will shed light on what went on here over the last 150 years.

Over that span of time, and not so long ago at that, people have given up riding around our northern counties by horseback, or in a buggy or by stagecoach over rough, unpaved rutted roads. Now we have smooth paved comfortable highways and take them for granted as if they were always here. One hundred years ago riverboats and ferries served the needs of many travelers before highways did.

How did the early Californians turn this Mexican colony into one of the states of the United States? Is it any surprise to learn that the steamships which brought the gold seekers to San Francisco from Panama were powered by two paddle wheels, one on either side? Where in this State was the first scheduled rail-

road established?

Who were the first immigrants to take up thousands of acres each, gifts of the Mexican Government?

Where did petroleum refining, now so important a part of our economy, commence in our area?

Since electric lights were unknown to the early auto manufacturers, what kind of night illumination did the early cars have?

Why was the Carquinez Bridge so important to our travelers?

Who was the one with the first idea to build the Golden Gate Bridge and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge? When did each open for traffic? Did trains ever cross the Bay on the Bay Bridge?

These are only a very few questions which are answered in "A Mid California Illustrated History."

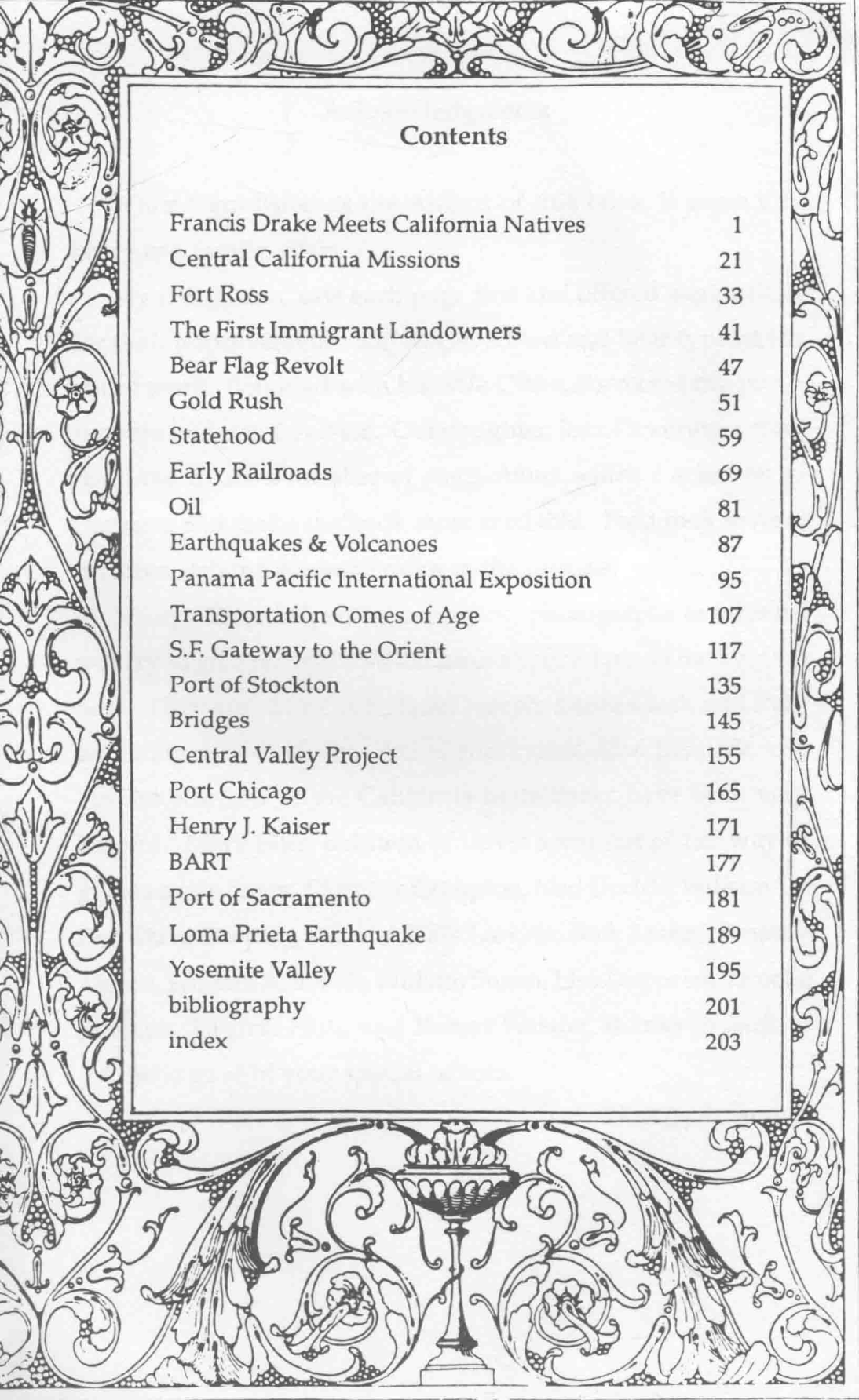
Chapters include Earthquakes and Volcanoes, the Panama Pacific International Exposition, the Ports of Sacramento and Stockton, the Central Valley Project and a dozen or more subjects. One covers Francisco Drake Meets California Natives (in 1579) and another the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. All are in pictures as well as words.

George Emanuels



QUEEN ELIZABETH CONFERRED KNIGHTHOOD ON
FRANCIS DRAKE SOON AFTER HE COMPLETED
HIS CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE WORLD IN 1580

(World Publishing Co.)



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Francis Drake Meets California Natives

Francis Drake, the first explorer to touch California, landed at the bay which is now named for him. He lived there for thirty-six days in June and July of 1579. The report he made to Queen Elizabeth of England included the helpful treatment he received from the Indians on the Point Reyes Peninsula. He said they brought him a very generous supply of venison and a gruel which resembled mush made from wild grass seeds.

For thousands of years these first Californians had lived in peace, for the best part. They seldom warred on each other, did not despoil the earth or do anything to endanger the environment.

The first explorer unloaded his vessel, the *Golden Hinde*, beached it so that his men might scrape off the barnacles and other sea growth, and made many necessary repairs to the vessel. They refloated the ship, reloaded it, filled their fresh water casks, and stowed the firewood the Indians had brought to the

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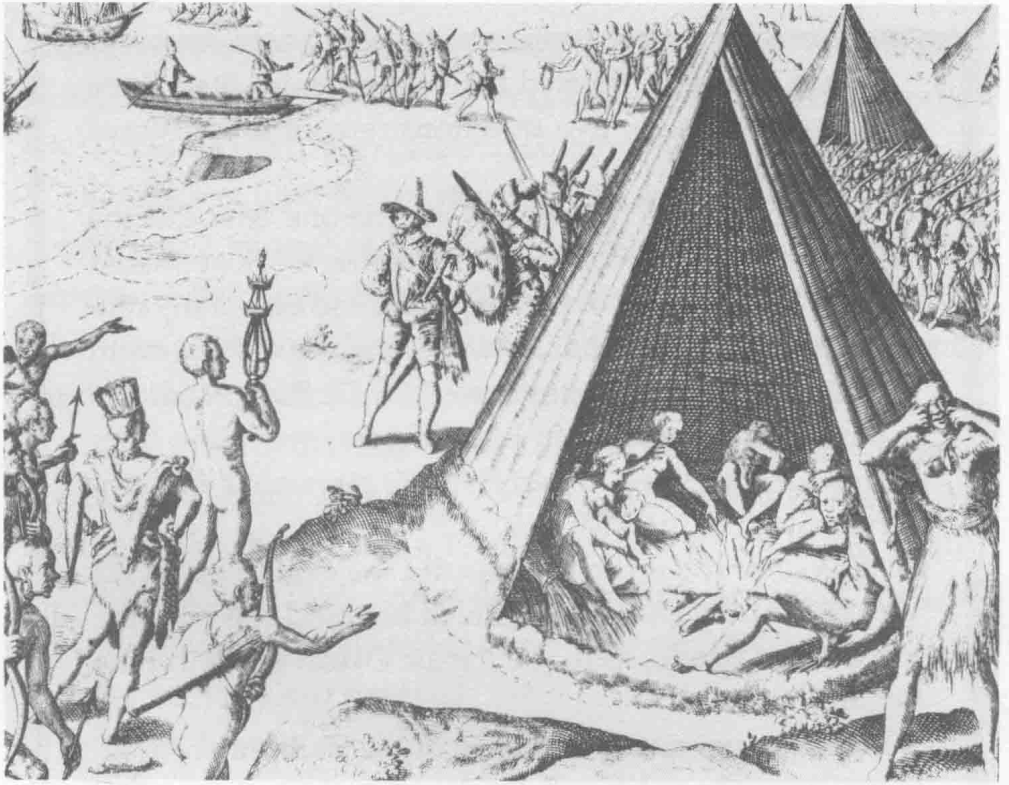


From Arnoldus Montanus, *Die unbekante neue Welt*; the Dapper issue, Amsterdam, 1673

The first European to land in California was Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo who went ashore in Southern California in 1542. The earliest European to visit Northern California was Francis Drake who landed on the Marin County coast of California in June, 1579.

All accounts which survived his voyage emphasize that the Coast Miwok Indians received the commander as they would a deity. Throughout his five-week stay the natives remained both peaceful and friendly.

At the time of his departure the accounts agree, there was much weeping, after seeing their wishes for the Englishmen to remain had failed the Indians.



Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution

In 1599, twenty years after Francis Drake visited the Pt. Reyes Peninsula, Theodor de Bry produced this engraving depicting the welcome the Coast Miwok Indians gave the explorer. While much is fanciful, including the two ships, the Golden Hinde came alone. The quiver is genuine. The chief in a headdress and with a deer-skin loin cloth are what we might expect him to be wearing. The nakedness of most of the natives is certainly correctly depicted. The weeping woman at the right apparently fears for the safety of her family as they cower around the fire in spite of the momentous scene going on around them. The conical slab huts were undoubtedly used in a place as fog-bound as Drake's Bay. The Indians undoubtedly rushed over the hills to see a sailing ship and men from another world for the first time. The two closest major villages were one at Olema and a larger one at Nicasio.

Since Drake completed his voyage more than three hundred years ago, two questions remain unanswered by historians.

How could the two engravers, the one who did the 1673 picture and Theodor de Bry, whose work appeared in 1599, have learned of the details they so accurately rendered? One appeared only twenty years after the event and the other ninety-four years after. De Bry's rendition is particularly accurate in light of what we know from Alfred Kroeber's and Robert Heizer's research in this century about the Coast Miwok.

The second question is how did the explorer find his way to the only channel by which he could sail his ship, the Golden Hinde, from the Pacific Ocean to the Indian Ocean?

One has only to open a map of the Philippine Archipelago to see how difficult a task he faced. Even if he had a chart of the area, though none was available in his century, the instruments he relied on couldn't have answered his needs.

Although the Dutch navigators found their way to Japan in Drake's time, they also had contact with the Portuguese who had sailed into the South China Sea. But the question remains. How could Drake have come by the course which he would need to follow, starting from the north coast of western America, and sail with the unsophisticated instruments more than 4,000 miles, and reach the perfect spot to sail into the Indian Ocean?

Francis Drake Meets California Natives

shore. With many natives weeping at the signs of their departure, Drake and his crew sailed west and reached England. Drake thus became the first explorer to circumnavigate the globe.

Drake's written report was lost, but what has survived 400 years is the journal of his chaplain published as "The World Encompassed by Sir Francis Drake, Carefully collected out of the notes of Master Francis Fletcher, Preacher, in this imployment, and diverse others his followers in the same. 1628."

"The men for the most part go naked, the women take a kind of bulrushes, and kembing (combing?) it after the manner of hemp make themselves a loose garment, which being knitted around their middles, hangs downe about their hippes, affords them a covering, having also about their shoulders, a skinne of Deere, with the hair upon it.

"Their houses are digged round within the earth and have from the outermost brimmes of the circles clefts of wood set up, and joyned close together at the top like our spires on the steeple of a church; which being covered with earth, suffer no water to enter and are very warm; the door in most part of them performs the office also of a chimney to let out the smoke.

"The King had on his head a cawle of knit-work, wrought upon somewhat like a crownees; ...his guards also having cawles likewise stuck with feathers, or crowned over with a certain downe, which groweth up in the country an herb much like our letuce, which exceeds any other downe in fineness, and being laid upon their cawles, can be no wind be removed.

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"Their baskets were made in a fashion like a deep boale, and though the matters were rushes, or such other kind of stuffe, yet was it so cunningly handled, that the most part of them would hold water; about the brimmes they were hanged with peeces of shels of pearles (Broken bits of abalone shells?) and in some places with two or three linkes at a place; and besides this, they



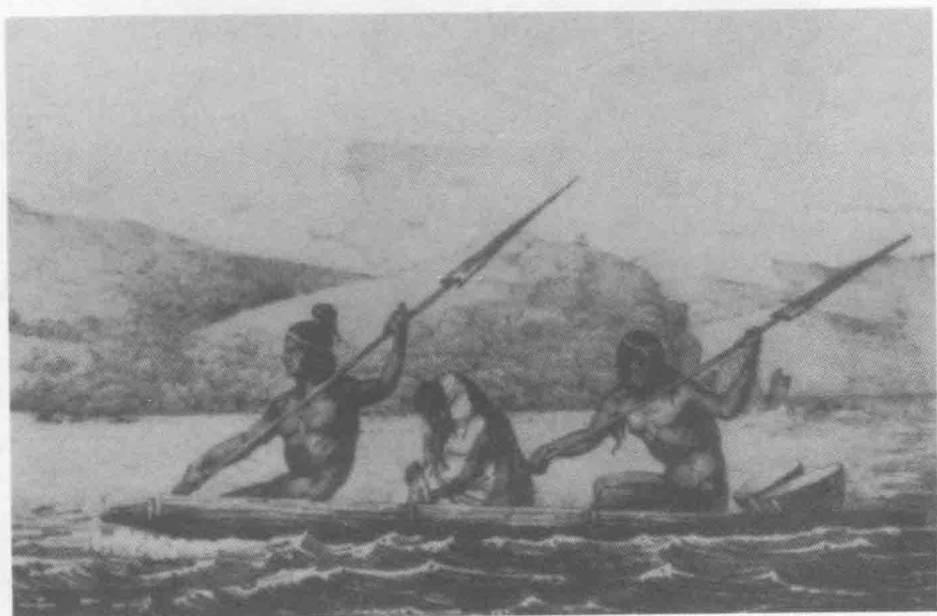
Louis Choris, 1816

Choris identifies the women on the left and the center as from a Coast Miwok tribelet in Marin County, the one second from the left a Utschuin, an Alameda County tribelet, and the two on the right as Saklans, a Miwok family group in the Walnut Creek area. Over 160 Saklan were baptized at Mission Dolores between 1794-1810. The artist left us this observation of the natives: "I have never seen one laugh. I have never seen one look one in the face. They look as though they were interested in nothing."

Francis Drake Meets California Natives

were wrought upon with matted downe with red feathers."

Francis Drake left England on December 15, 1577 and reached the Marin County coast in mid-June 1579. After 36 days he departed for England. His total elapsed time for the "World Encompassed" was two years, 10 months, "and some few odde daies beside."



Lowie Museum, Berkeley, Calif.

These three coast Miwok are on their way to a day of gathering wild seeds. Note the wide mouth baskets in the stern of their balsa. The Marin shoreline is in the background.

To begin to understand the native Californians, one has only to read Don Gaspar Portolá's account of meeting them. No other explorer came overland before Portolá so his record gives a very