

ADVENTURE TALES OF CALIFORNIA

From Exploration to Statehood, 1542 - 1850

By Jody Potts



GOLDEN TROUT
State Fish



State Flag



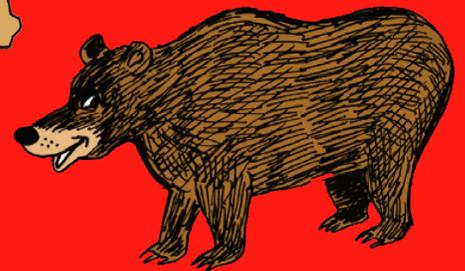
GOLDEN POPPY
State Flower



REDWOOD
State Tree



VALLEY QUAIL
State Bird



GRIZZLY BEAR
State Animal

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By Jody Potts, Ph.D.

ILLUSTRATORS
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Signal Media Publishers
Dallas, Texas
www.adventuretales.com

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A specialist in left and right brain learning techniques, Dr. Potts pioneered the integration of these techniques with the teaching and writing of history. Her graduate courses, **History of American Ideas** and **The Lively Mind: Creative and Critical Thinking Techniques Using Both Sides of the Brain**, have provided an interactive setting for applying and testing the left and right brain learning techniques she used in *Adventure Tales of America* and its predecessor *Adventure Tales of Arkansas*.

In 1993 Dr. Potts wrote *Adventure Tales of America: An Illustrated History of the United States, 1492-1877*, an innovative book that accelerates learning by simultaneously giving information to the left brain through words, analysis, and structure and to the right brain through pictures, humor, and drama. Now a multimedia program, it has raised state history scores throughout the country—as much as 18 percent for grade-level students and 115 percent for at-risk students. In 2000 she wrote *Adventure Tales of Benjamin Banneker* and in 2001 *Adventure Tales of the Constitution of the United States*.

Dr. Potts is founder of **The Lively Mind**, a national consulting firm offering seminars in left and right brain learning techniques for students, faculties, and administrators. Participating groups have included public schools nationwide, state social studies councils, the Council for Support and Advancement of Education, and the University of Texas at Austin senior faculty. She serves on North Texas University's Department of History Advisory Board and recently was selected as an outstanding alumna of the University. She is a past member of the Presidents' Circle of the National Academy of Sciences.

ILLUSTRATORS

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PUBLISHER

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ISBN: 1-887337-10-5

Printed in the United States of America 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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GETTING THE MOST FROM *ADVENTURE TALES OF CALIFORNIA*



OBJECTIVE: To understand the early history of California, from exploration to statehood

INTRODUCTION

1. What do you know about California's early history and what would you like to know?
2. Discuss the objective.
3. **Vocabulary:** Look for the meaning of these key words as you read.
Alta California, Baja California, missions, presidios, pueblos, rancheros, vaqueros



LEARNING STRATEGIES

- **FOCUS ON KEY QUESTIONS** to experience learning-by-discovery.

Think about the following questions as you read and discuss *Adventure Tales of California*.

1. When did Native Americans first migrate to California?
2. How did California get its name?
3. Who claimed California for Spain?
4. How did the Spanish mission system organize California settlements?
5. How did Mexican independence from Spain affect California?
6. What changes did the 1849 gold rush bring to California?
7. How did the United States acquire California?



- **READ AND DISCUSS *ADVENTURE TALES OF CALIFORNIA*.**

- **CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKING ACTIVITIES**

1. Dramatize life in California under 1) Spain 2) Mexico 3) the United States.
2. Create promotional materials encouraging California settlement under 1) Spain 2) Mexico 3) the United States.

- **SUMMARIZE THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS.**

- **ASSESSMENT:** Test your knowledge by answering the seven questions above.

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1 ★ THE FIRST AMERICANS: PREHISTORIC ADVENTURERS

prehistoric— refers to anything that happened before recorded history, which in America means before 1492 A.D.
immigrants—those who enter a new land, for the purpose of making it their permanent home

In 1492 when Christopher Columbus discovered America, he called the New World inhabitants **Indians**, for he thought, mistakenly, that he had landed in India. The term **Indian** has remained in use ever since—more than 500 years. Today we use it interchangeably with the term **Native American** (although even these earliest Americans were immigrants, not natives). Nearly every Native American group, however, called itself by a name that meant **people**.

20,000 B.C.

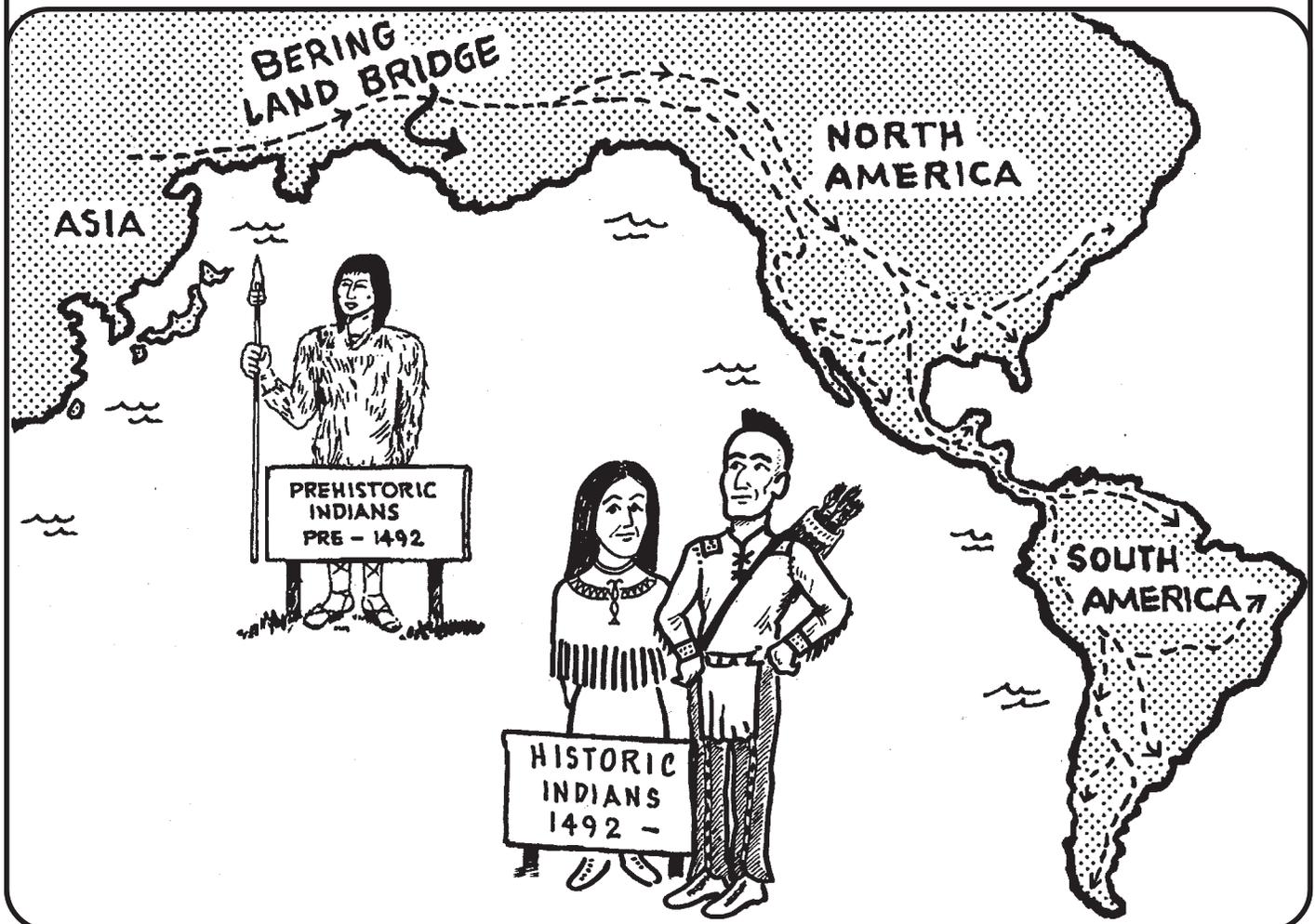
1492 A.D.

2010

THE LAST GREAT ICE AGE began about 75,000 years ago when Earth's climate cooled and glaciers (giant ice sheets formed from river and ocean waters) covered northern continents. Glacier formations lowered ocean levels and exposed a strip of land 1,000 miles wide between Asia and North America. For a long time this land, called the Bering land bridge, connected Asia and Alaska.

THE BERING LAND BRIDGE, made possible one of the most important human migrations in history as people from Asia, hunter-gatherers, ventured into the uninhabited North American continent, beginning about 20,000 years ago. By 8,000 B.C. their descendants reached lower South America. These Asian immigrants, the first Americans, were ancestors of North and South American Indians, including those in California.

THE ICE AGE ENDED 10,000 YEARS AGO. Melting ice sheets caused rising sea levels, and the Bering land bridge disappeared under water, closing the immigration route. From then until Columbus' discovery of America in 1492, America's first immigrants had the Western Hemisphere to themselves.

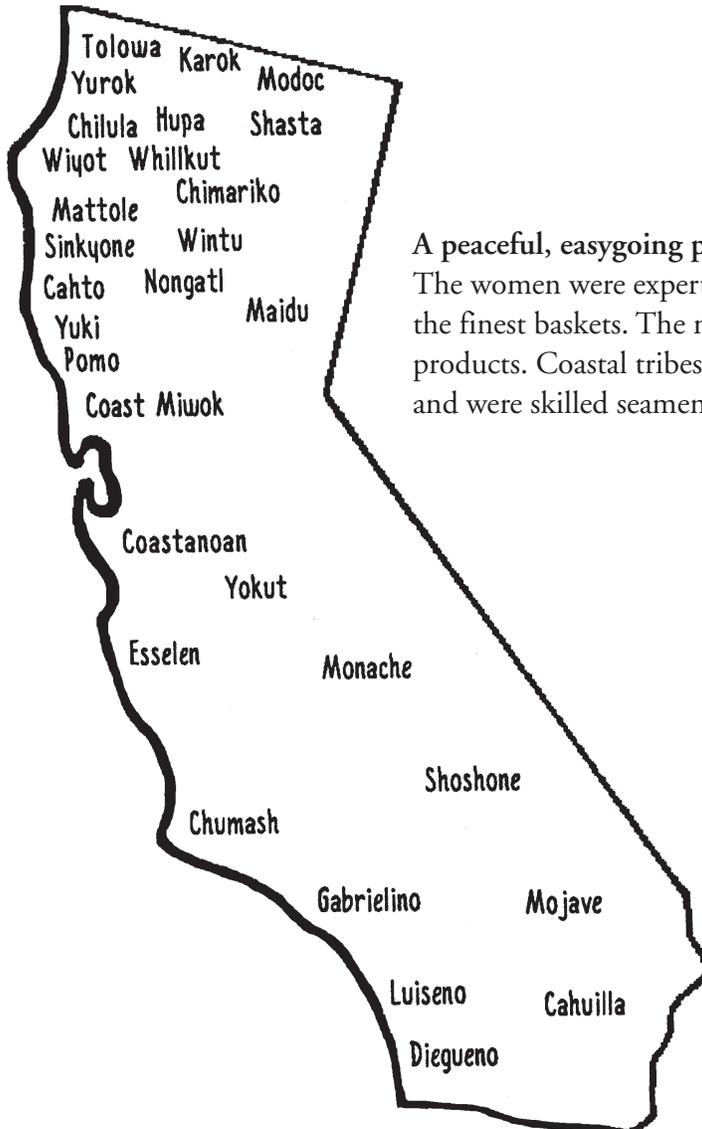


PREHISTORIC NATIVE AMERICANS IN CALIFORNIA—12,000 B.C.-1500s A.D.

Native Americans first migrated to present-day California about 12,000 years ago. They numbered about 300,000 when Spanish explorers arrived in the 1540s. They lived in small and large villages, some as large as 1,000 people.

Separated by deserts and mountains, they spoke about 21 different languages and more than 100 dialects.

Hunters and gatherers, they lived off the bounty of the land—eating acorns, roots, berries nuts, fish, rabbits, squirrels, and deer.



A peaceful, easygoing people, they enjoyed games and singing. The women were expert basket makers; the Pomo made some of the finest baskets. The men hunted and fished and made wood products. Coastal tribes, such as the Chumash, made strong boats and were skilled seamen and navigators.

In 1492 when Columbus discovered the New World, he did not find a vacant land.

North and South America teemed with descendants of those early adventurers who crossed the Bering Straits—beginning about 20,000 years ago. Population estimates of the two continents in 1492 range between 60,000,000 and 100,000,000.

In North America Indian groups spoke more than 300 different languages and had diverse cultures.

According to their environment, they made their living by hunting, fishing, farming, herding, or some combination of these activities. Their social organization ranged from small tribes, composed of several clans (related families), to large confederacies, composed of many tribes.



**NATIVE AMERICANS
1492-1835**

In 1533 Fortun Jimenez, one of Spanish explorer Hernando Cortez's ship pilots, discovered a North American peninsula and thought it was an island.

The Spaniards named the "island" California, after a mythical paradise island described by Garci Ordenez de Montalvo in his book *Las Sergas de Esplandian* (written in the 1500s).

In 1542 JUAN RODRIQUEZ CABRILLO, a Portuguese in the service of Spain, sailed 1,200 miles up the western coast of North America looking for a water route to the Atlantic Ocean.

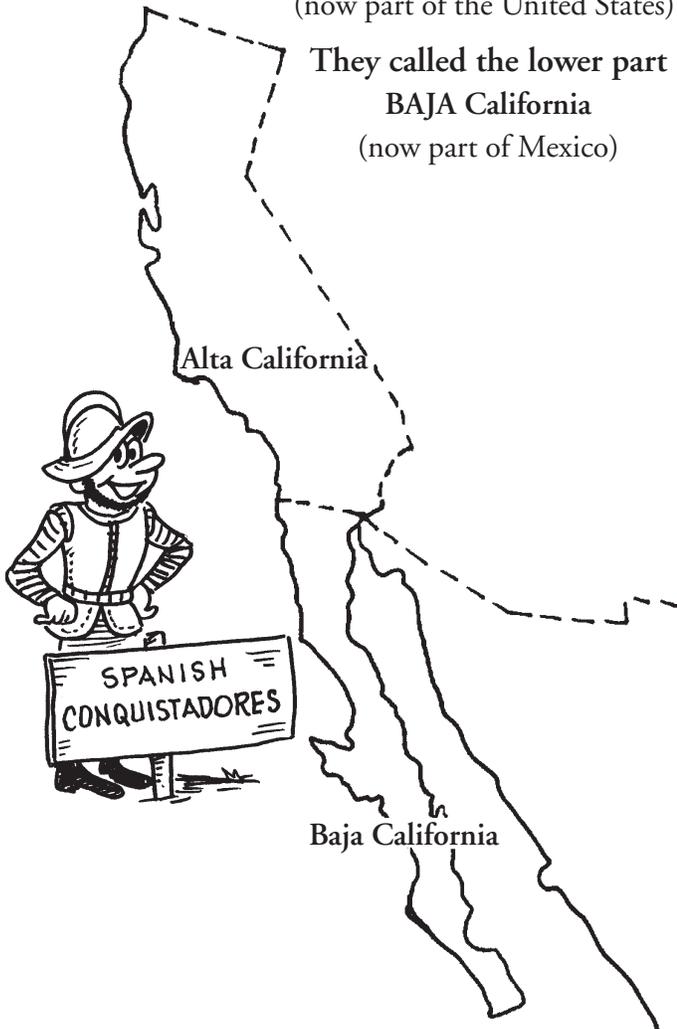
CABRILLO CLAIMED THE WHOLE AREA FOR SPAIN AND CALLED IT CALIFORNIA.



The Spaniards called the upper part of California

ALTA California
(now part of the United States).

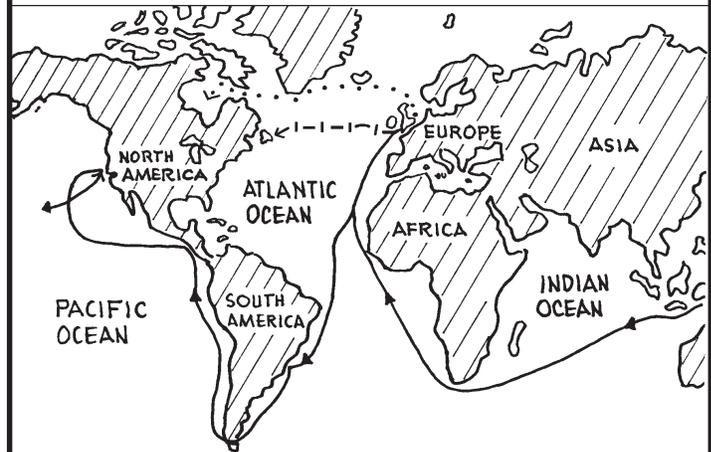
They called the lower part
BAJA California
(now part of Mexico)



1579—ENGLAND CLAIMED CALIFORNIA

In 1579 a surprising event threatened Spain's claim to Alta California. The English buccaneer Sir Francis Drake, on a spectacular round-the-world voyage, anchored near San Francisco and claimed the land for Elizabeth, Queen of England.

England, however, failed to colonize California, and Spain breathed easier!



—Route of Sir Francis Drake

From 1542 to 1769 (227 years)
the Spaniards ignored Alta California.

They were busy establishing missions in Baja California and governing Mexico City and other parts of New Spain. Then, in 1769 everything changed.

1769—SPAIN COLONIZED ALTA CALIFORNIA

In 1769 Spanish King Charles III learned that the Russians were colonizing present-day Alaska. He told Jose de Galvez, his inspector general in New Spain, to colonize Alta California in defense. (In 1812 Russia established Fort Ross near present-day Jenner, California, then disbanded it in 1841.)

Galvez embarked on a “Sacred Expedition” with 300 men, including Captain Gaspar de Portola, a governor of New Spain, and Father Junipero Serra, a Franciscan priest.



The expedition was successful. Captain Portola and his soldiers built a presidio (military fort) near San Diego Bay, while Father Serra, established a Catholic mission there.

IT'S TRUE! THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING! THEY'RE COLONIZING ALASKA AND MIGHT MOVE SOUTH. WE MUST COLONIZE ALTA CALIFORNIA TO PROTECT IT. CAPTAIN PORTOLA, YOU'RE IN COMMAND. FATHER SERRA, YOU BUILD MISSIONS ALONG THE COAST.



EL CAMINO REAL: THE ROYAL ROAD

And so began a chain of presidios, missions, and pueblos (towns) along California's Pacific Coast, stretching from San Diego to San Francisco.

By 1823 there were 21 Franciscan missions (nine built by Father Serra), each about a day's journey from the next. The road connecting them was called El Camino Real, the Royal Road.

CALIFORNIA MISSIONS

- SAN FRANCISCO SOLANO, 1803 SONOMA
- SAN RAFAEL, 1817 ARCÁNGEL,
- SAN FRANCISCO, 1776 DE ASÍS (MISSION DOLORES),
- SAN JOSÉ, 1797 DE GUADALUPE, FREMONT
- SANTA CLARA, 1777 DE ASÍS,
- SANTA CRUZ, 1791
- SAN JUAN BAUTISTA, 1797
- SAN CARLOS, 1770 BORROMEDEL CARMELO, CARMEL
- SOLEDAD, 1771 NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA 1791
- SAN ANTONIO, 1771 DE PAUDA, JOLON
- SAN MIGUEL ARCÁNGEL, 1797
- SAN LUÍS OBISPO DE TOLOSA, 1772
- LA PURÍSIMA CONCEPCIÓN, 1787 LOMPOC
- SANTA INÉS, 1804 SOLVANG
- SANTA BARBARA, 1786
- SAN BUENAVENTURA, 1782 VENTURA
- SAN FERNANDO REY DE ESPAÑA, 1797
- SAN GABRIEL ARCÁNGEL, 1771
- SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, 1776
- SAN LUÍS REY DE FRANCIA, 1798
- SAN DIEGO DE ALCALÁ, 1769
- YUMA, 1780



★ CALIFORNIA: A SPANISH COLONY

1769-1822—SPANISH COLONIAL LIFE REVOLVED AROUND THREE INSTITUTIONS.

◆ **MISSIONS** were Catholic religious settlements—centered around a church—where padres (priests) had three responsibilities regarding the native population, whom they called Indians:

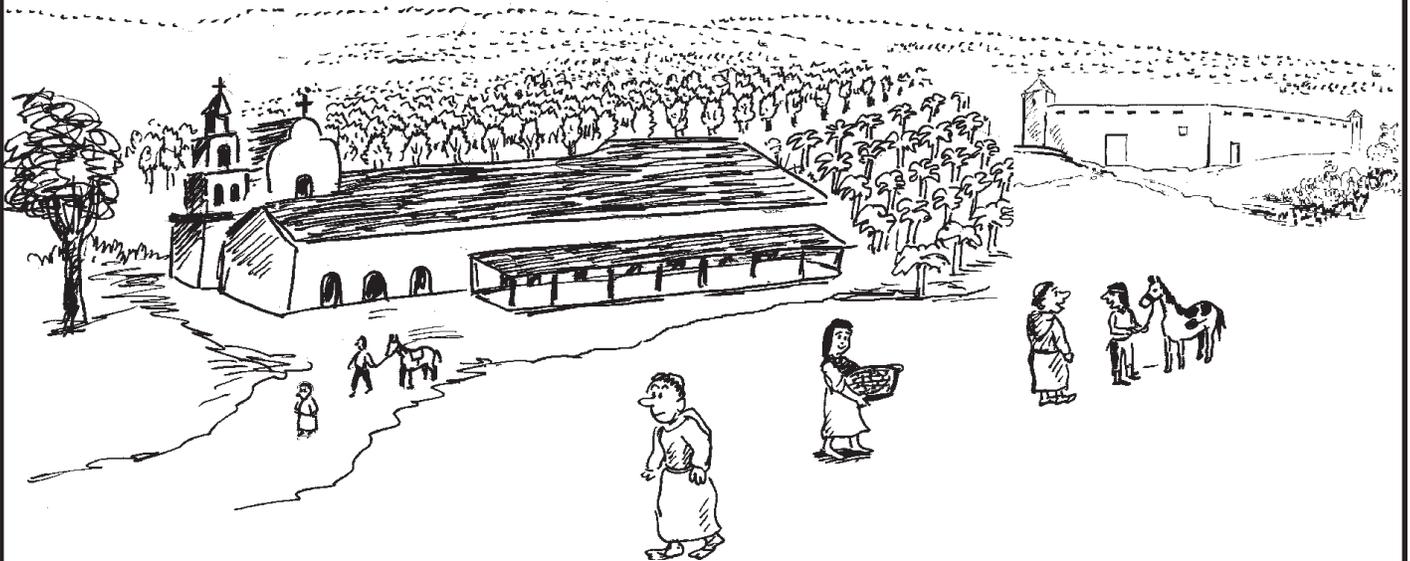
- convert the Indians to Christianity and bring them into the Catholic faith
- civilize the Indians, by teaching them skills in agriculture and crafts
- force the Indians to work, cultivating the thousands of acres of farm land, orchards, and vineyards owned by the missions.

Most of the Indian converts, called neophytes, lived at the missions. By 1821 about 21,000 Indians lived at the missions. They were punished if they did not work, and presidio soldiers crushed their periodic attempts to escape or revolt. Many Indians died from abuse and European diseases for which they had no immunity. Between 1769 and 1800 the Indian population declined approximately from 300,000 to 200,000

◆ **PRESIDIOS** were military forts designed to protect the missions and, on the coast, protect against foreign invaders. Many of the soldiers at the presidios farmed land nearby.

◆ **PUEBLOS** were farming towns that developed near the missions. Here lived the families of presidio soldiers and settlers from New Spain.

The settlers included Spaniards, Indians, and Mexicans (people of mixed Spanish and Indian bloodlines, who also were called mestizos.)



7 ★ CALIFORNIA: A MEXICAN TERRITORY

1821—MEXICO WON INDEPENDENCE FROM SPAIN.

Mexico's independence ended 300 years of Spanish rule. Augustin de Iturbide became emperor of Mexico.



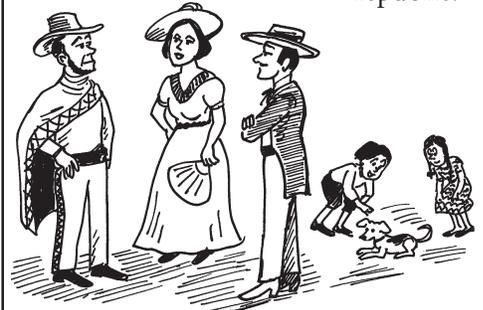
1822—CALIFORNIA POPULATION

◆ 200,000 Indians (Abuse and European diseases cut the number from 300,000 in 1769.)

◆ 3,200 people of Spanish and Mexican descent



CALIFORNIOS was the name preferred by Spanish and Mexican Californians. Far removed from Mexico City, they felt little identity with Spain or Mexico. Independent in politics as well as name, they established a legislature in Monterey, site of the former Spanish government. It lasted three years, until Mexico became a republic.



1824— MEXICO BECAME A REPUBLIC AND, IN 1825, MADE CALIFORNIA A MEXICAN TERRITORY.

In 1825 Mexico subdued the independent Californios by establishing a territorial government in Monterey, California.

In 1831 Californios rebelled against the dictatorial governor Manuel Victoria and proclaimed the Free and Sovereign State of Alta California.

However, when Mexico promised Californios a voice in their government if they would agree to remain a Mexican territory, they agreed to do so.

California remained part of Mexico until 1848, when it became a territory of the United States.

Yo soy Pio Pico, gobernador Mexicano de California desde 1845 a 1846. Aqui son los otros gobernadores Mexicanos.



MEXICAN GOVERNORS

- 1821-22 Pablo Vicente Sola
- 1822-25 Luis Arguello
- 1825-31 Jose Maria de Echeandia
- 1831-31 Manuel Victoria
- 1831-33 Jose Maria de Echeandia
- 1833-35 Jose Figueroa
- 1835-36 Jose Castro
- 1836-36 Nicolas Gutierrez
- 1836-36 Mariano Chico
- 1836-36 Nicolas Gutierrez
- 1836-42 Juan Bautista Alvarado
- 1842-45 Manuel Micheltoarena
- 1845-46 Pio Pico

1831—END OF THE SPANISH MISSION SYSTEM: MEXICO SOLD OR GAVE AWAY THE MISSIONS' LAND.



The Mexican government closed California's Spanish missions by taking their land and giving part to the Indians, who were freed from the missions' forced-labor system.

The majority of the land was sold or granted to private citizens.

The missions began to decay, but their development of agriculture made a lasting contribution to California.

Today the restored missions are important historic sites that you can visit in California.

By 1848—EXTENT OF SPANISH AND MEXICAN LAND GRANTS



RANCHEROS—

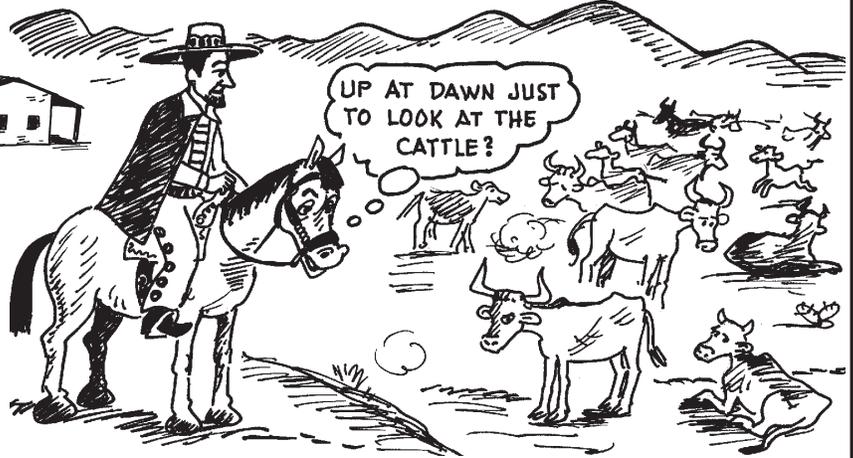
To encourage settlement and economic development, Mexico sold or granted large areas of land (1,000 to 50,000 acres) to Californios who agreed to build RANCHOS (ranches), large estates for raising cattle, horses, sheep, and goats.



These Spanish and Mexican landowners were called RANCHEROS.

Some were retired military officers from the presidios. Twenty-six grants went to women.

Many of the rancheros grew wealthy and lived aristocratic lives. Extended families with up to 30 or 40 relatives lived on the ranchos. Indians did most of the work.



VAQUEROS—

Vaqueros (mounted herdsmen) in Spain were the first cowboys. Spanish conquistadores brought the first cattle and horses to the New World along with vaqueros to tend them.



Mexicans and Indians, learned from the Spaniards to be skilled vaqueros, and American cowboys learned from them.

RODEOS—

Rodeos, held after the spring and fall cattle roundups, matched vaqueros against one another in games of skill with cattle, horses, and even roosters. In a favorite game, el carrera del gallo, the vaquero had to reach down from his galloping horse to release a half-buried rooster.



FIESTAS AND FEASTS: CALIFORNIO HOSPITALITY

“My house is your house!” was a frequent saying among rancheros. Hospitality reigned as families took every occasion—holidays, birthdays, weddings—to celebrate together. Their fiestas might last from three to seven days.



Mi casa es su casa!



NEW ENGLAND SEA CAPTAINS



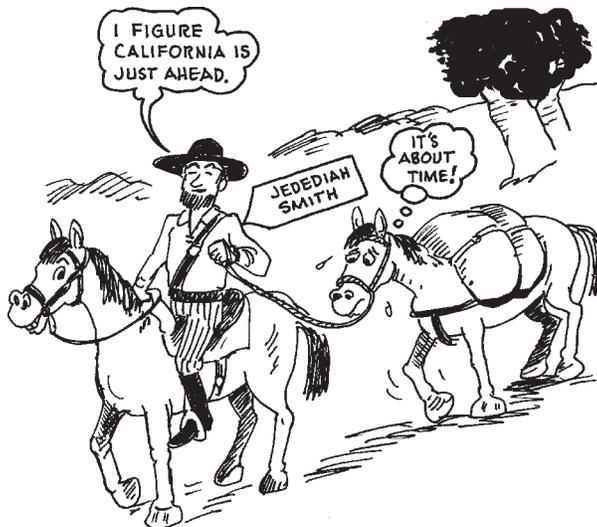
In the 1820s and 1830s Mexico, unlike Spain, encouraged Californios to trade with outsiders. A steady stream of New England sea captains came to trade with the rancheros.

In 1841 Richard Henry Dana published *Two Years Before the Mast*, based on his life as a sailor on the brig *Pilgrim* during its 1834-36 trading voyage from Boston to California ports. It is an American classic about life at sea and also a rare, first-hand account of Californios in the years before the gold rush and statehood.

From Monterey Bay, Dana recorded trading an assorted cargo of "everything that can be imagined," including shoes and cloth from the factories of Lynn and Lowell Massachusetts. He noted that the goods were priced nearly 300 percent higher than in Boston because of high duties charged by the Mexican government.

TRAILBLAZERS

In 1826 Jedediah Smith, trapper and explorer, blazed a trail to California across the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Kit Carson, John C. Fremont, and other explorers followed.



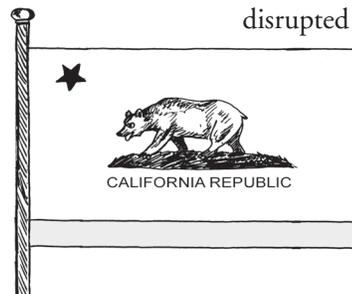
UNITED STATES SETTLERS

In 1841 John Bidwell and John Bartleson led the first United States settlers to California. Others followed, many motivated by a belief that California should belong to the United States.



THE BEAR FLAG REVOLT

On June 9, 1846, American settlers in Sonoma, California, declared their independence from Mexico by raising a flag with a star and a grizzly bear on it. The flag read "California Republic." John C. Fremont joined them to help. However, a war between Mexico and the United States disrupted the rebellion.

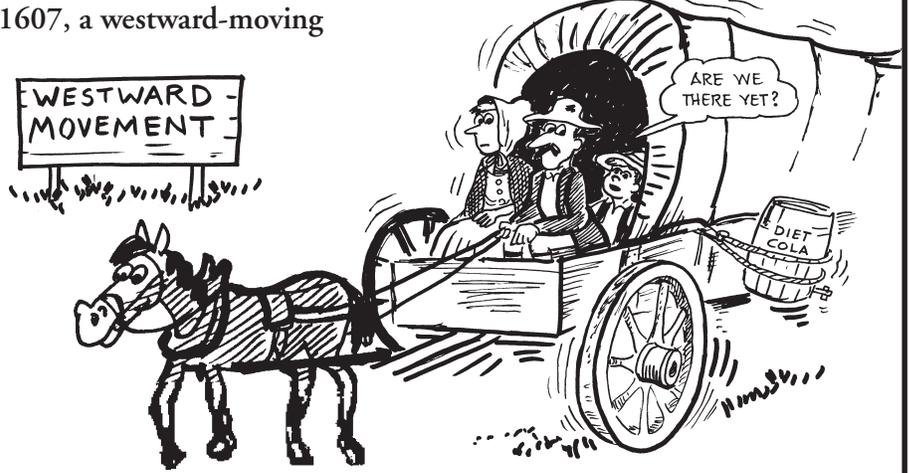


MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE UNITED STATES MORE AND MORE PEOPLE HEADED WEST.

Since the settlement of Jamestown in 1607, a westward-moving frontier marked America's history.

In 1845 John O'Sullivan, editor of the *Democratic Review*, expressed what Americans had thought all along:

It was America's **manifest destiny** (clear future) to expand her empire of liberty from coast to coast.



As early as 1825 Secretary of State John Quincy Adams had urged continental expansion.

THE WORLD SHOULD BE FAMILIARIZED WITH THE IDEA OF CONSIDERING OUR PROPER DOMINION TO BE THE CONTINENT OF NORTH AMERICA.



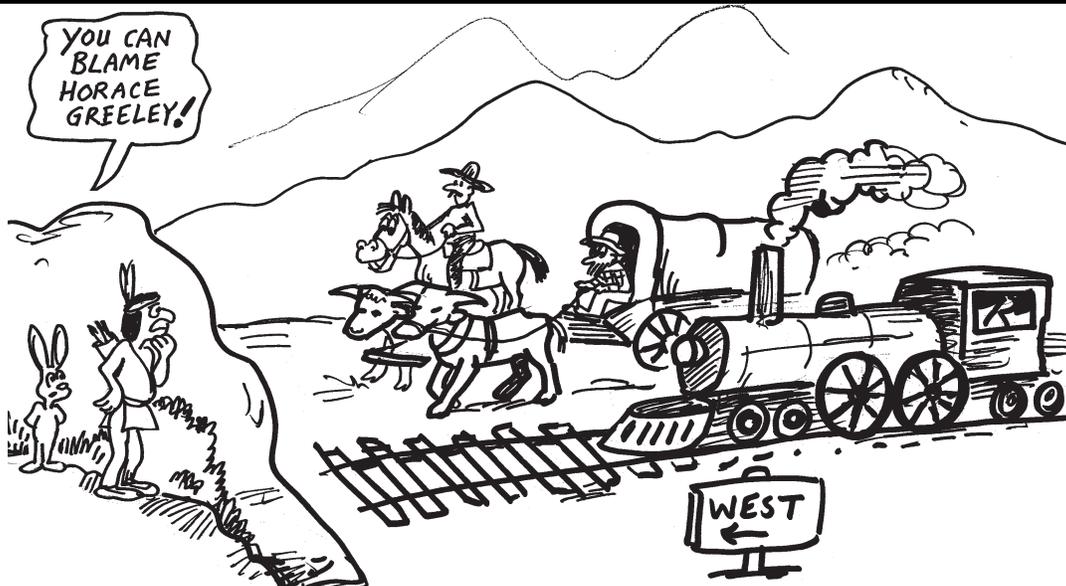
Horace Greeley, editor of the *New York Tribune*, encouraged young men to follow their destiny—and their country's—westward. In 1857 he advised:

GO WEST, YOUNG MAN, AND GROW UP WITH THE COUNTRY!

WHAT ABOUT US?



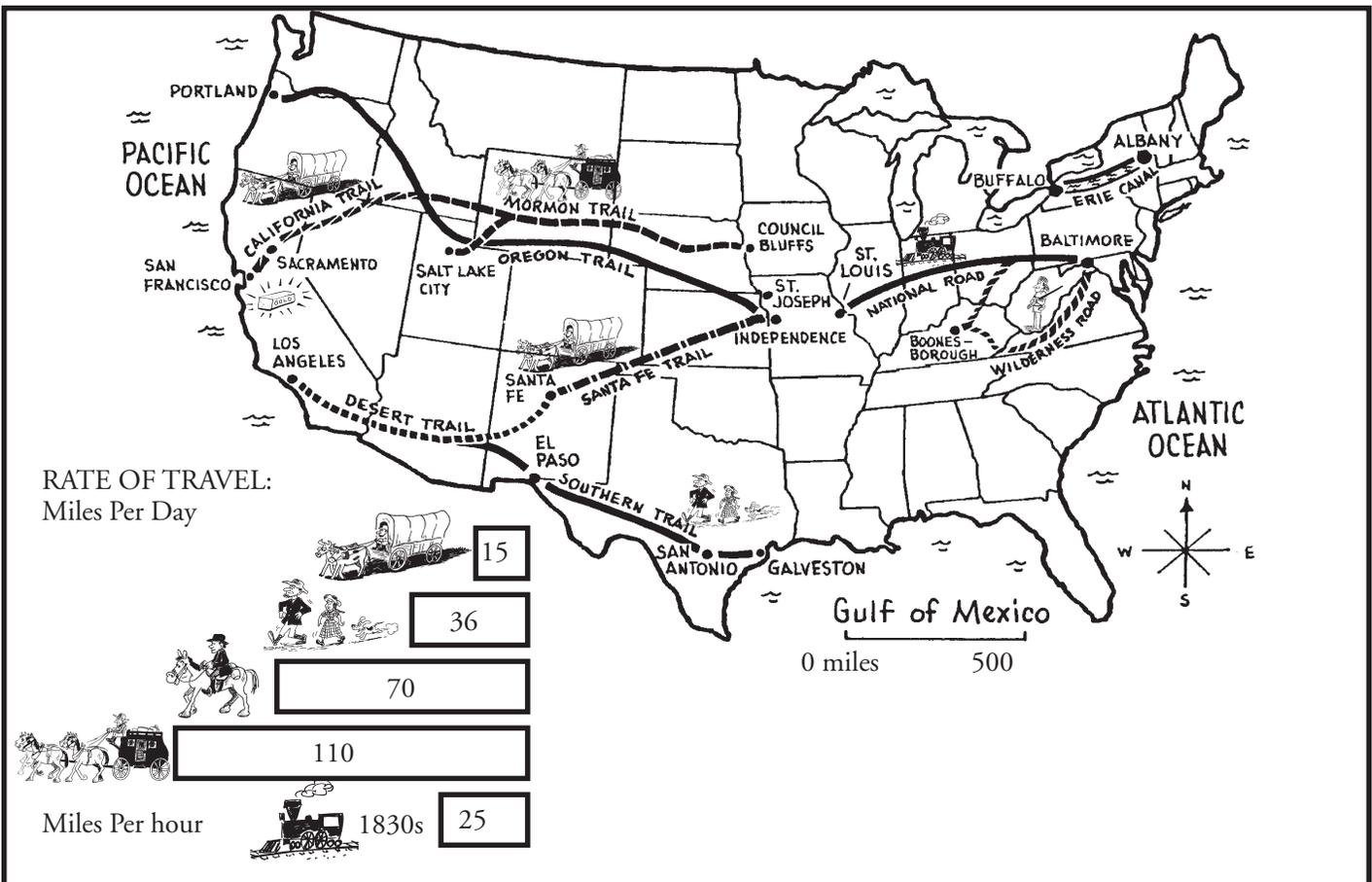
YOU CAN BLAME HORACE GREELEY!



11 ★ WESTWARD HO! TRAILS AND TRAVELLERS

"I am listening to the tread of unnumbered millions to come."—Henry Clay, putting his ear to the ground on the Wilderness Road

1492 1820 1860 2010



WESTWARD ROUTES

Imagine the United States with thousands of Indian paths but no roads. Early settlers followed these paths—many formed first by buffalo—and gradually widened them for wagons and stagecoaches. Some they lined with stones. Others remained primitive; wagon drivers caught on tree stumps left in the way would exclaim, "I'm stumped."

◆ **WILDERNESS TRAIL**—In 1775 Daniel Boone and a crew of "30 guns" hacked the first highway into the West. They followed the ancient Iroquois-Cherokee Warrior Path through the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky.

◆ **NATIONAL ROAD**—In 1818 the federal government completed this crushed-stone road. Unlike most trails, it had a scattering of inns.

◆ **ERIE CANAL**—In 1825 this spectacular engineering feat opened a trade route from the Great Lakes to the Hudson River and Atlantic Ocean, making New York City the nation's leading commercial center. (Thomas Jefferson, said of the Erie Canal proposal: "Why, sir, you talk of making a canal 350 miles through the wilderness—it is little short of madness....") Canal building continued, in part because Robert Fulton's steamboat (1807) proved water travel could be efficient.

◆ **SANTA FE TRAIL**—Santa Fe, founded by the Spanish in 1610, was closed to "Americanos" until 1821 when Mexico won its independence from Spain and

opened Santa Fe to American traders. William Bucknell led the first American wagon train into Santa Fe in 1822. Today, on the edge of the city, you can see wagon ruts carved by Bucknell, Kit Carson, and other adventurers.

◆ **OREGON TRAIL**—In 1841 settlers lured by fertile land began trekking 2,000 miles to the Oregon country, jointly occupied by the United States and Britain since 1818. In 1843 they established a provisional overnment and demanded annexation to the United States.

◆ **MORMON TRAIL**—In 1847 Brigham Young led the first of 15,000 Mormons, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to Utah as a haven from persecution. Utah became a state in 1896, after the Mormons agreed to give up polygamy.

◆ **CALIFORNIA TRAIL**—Gold, discovered in 1848 at Sutter's Fort near Sacramento, drew a "gold rush" of people racing across the continent to strike it rich—80,000 by 1849. Called "forty-niners," they soon wrote a state constitution and sought U.S. annexation.

President James K. Polk Promotes Westward Expansion.



President James K. Polk
1845-1849

1844—James K. Polk, Tennessee Democrat, won election as president on a platform calling for annexation of Oregon and Texas, with a general understanding that the South would accept Oregon if the West and North would accept Texas, a slave state.

Through a joint resolution in Congress, Texas was admitted to the Union in December 1845, and the Oregon boundary dispute was settled with Britain in June 1846. (Oregon became a state in 1859.)

It was time now to settle the dispute with Mexico about Texas' southern boundary. The U.S. claimed the Rio Grande River as the boundary. Mexico claimed the Nueces River.

1845—Polk sent John Slidell to Mexico to offer to buy the disputed land, plus California and New Mexico. But Mexico refused to deal with him.



January 1846—Polk sent General Zachary Taylor with troops to the disputed area, a violation of international law.

April 24—Mexicans killed 11 Americans on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande River.

April 30—Mexican troops attacked the Americans in the disputed zone.

May 11—Polk asked Congress for a declaration of war, claiming that:



Mexico has shed American blood on American soil!

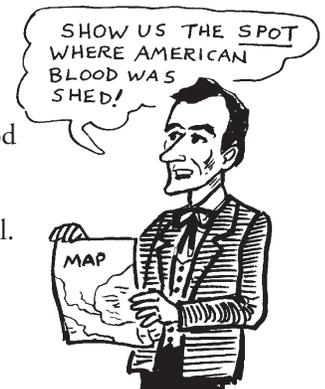
May 13, 1846—Congress declared war against Mexico.

1848—The United States won the war.

Most southerners favored the war, thinking that any territory won would be organized into slave states. Many northerners opposed the war for the same reason.

Illinois Congressman Abraham Lincoln opposed the war and challenged Polk:

Lincoln questioned whether blood was shed on Mexican or American soil.



MAJOR BATTLES IN U.S. VICTORY OVER MEXICO



U.S. General Zachary Taylor defeated Mexican Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna at Buena Vista, while Gen. Stephen Kearny gained control of New Mexico and marched on to California. Gen. Winfield Scott, invading from the sea, captured Vera Cruz and, finally, Mexico City.



TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO

February 2, 1848

THE PEACE TREATY PROVIDED THAT:

1. Mexico would accept the Rio Grande River as the Texas border and cede to the U.S. New Mexico and upper California. This Mexican Cession included present-day Arizona and parts of Utah, Nevada, and Colorado.

2. The United States would assume claims of Americans citizens against Mexico and pay Mexico \$15,000,000.

THE BIG QUESTION: Would the new U.S. territory be slave or free?

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo's eighth article dealt with citizenship and property rights of the Mexicans
 “now established in territories previously belonging to Mexico, and which remain
 for the future within the limits of the United States....”

ARTICULO VIII
 (Español)

Los Mexicanos establecidos hoy en territorios pertenecientes antes a Mexico y que quedan para lo futuro dentro de los limites senalados por el presente tratado a los Estados Unidos, podran permanecer en donde ahora habitan, o trasladaran en cualquier tiempo a la Republica Mexicana, conservando en los indicados territorios los bienes que poseen, o enagenandolos y pasando su valor a donde les convenga, sin que por esto pueda exigirseles ningun genero de contribucion, gravamen o impuesto.

Los que prefieran permanecer en los indicados territorios podran conservar el titulo y derechos de ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos. Mas la eleccion entre una y otra ciudadanía, deberan hacerla dentro de un ano contado desde la fecha del cange de las ratificaciones de este tratado. Y los que permanecieren en los indicados territorios despues del transcurrido del ano, sin haber declarado su intencion de retener el caracter de mexicanos, le considerara que han elegido ser ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos.

Las propiedades de todo genero existentes en los expresados teritorios, y que pertenecen ahora a Mexicanos no establecidos en ellas, seran respetadas inviolablemente. Sus actuales duenos, los herederos de estos, y los Mexicanos que en lo venidero puedan adquirir por contrato las indicadas propiedades, disfrutaran respeto de ellas tan amplia garantia, como si perteneciesen a ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos.

ARTICLE VIII
 (English)

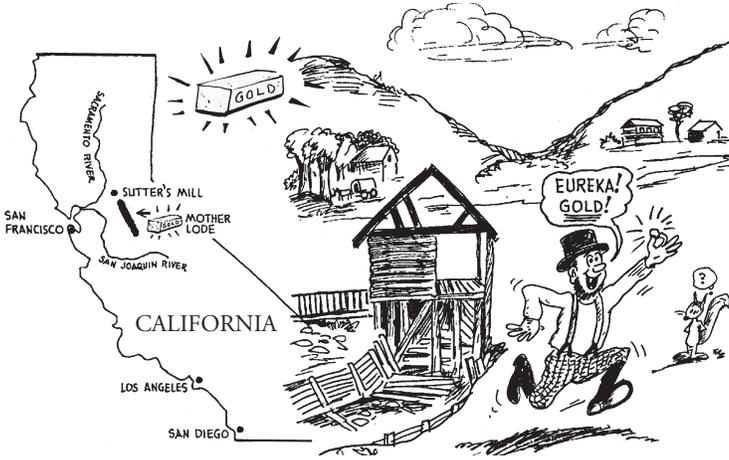
Mexicans now established in territories previously belonging to Mexico, and which remain for the future within the limits of the United States, as defined by the present treaty, shall be free to continue where they now reside, or to remove at any time to the Mexican Republic, retaining the property which they possess in the said territories, or disposing thereof, and removing the proceeds wherever they please, without their being subjected, on this account, to any contribution, tax, or charge whatever.

Those who shall prefer to remain in the said territories may either retain the title and rights of Mexican citizens, or acquire those of citizens of the United States. But they shall be under the obligation to make their election within one year from the date of the exchange of ratifications of this treaty; and those who shall remain in the said territories after the expiration of that year, without having declared their intention to retain the character of Mexicans, shall be considered to have elected to become citizens of the United States.

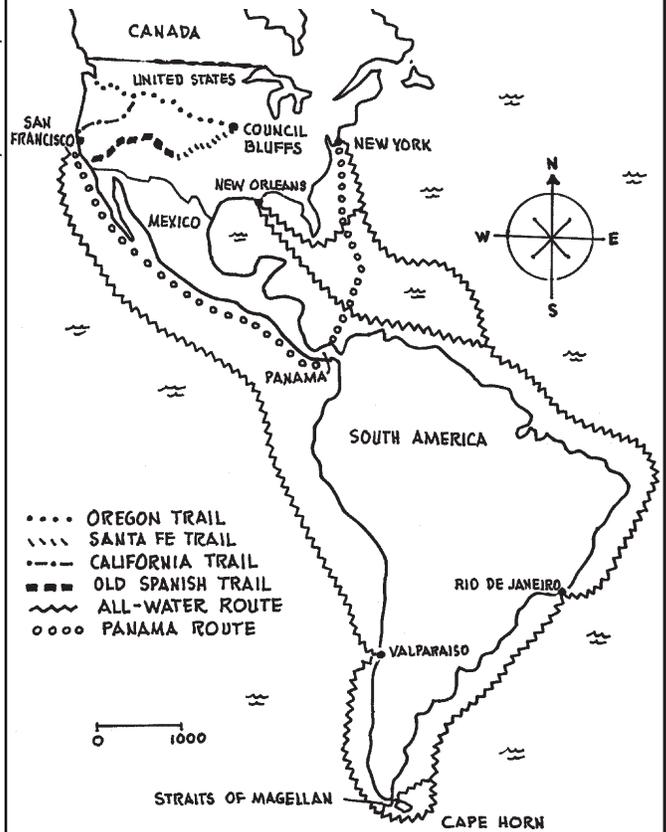
In the said territories, property of every kind, now belonging to Mexicans not established there, shall be inviolably respected. The present owners, the heirs of these, and all Mexicans who may hereafter acquire said property by contract, shall enjoy with respect to it guarantees equally ample as if the same belonged to citizens of the United States.

CALIFORNIA GOLD STRIKE, 1848

John Sutter, a German immigrant, came to California in 1839 to seek his fortune. He struck it rich in 1848 with the discovery of gold near his sawmill.



The gold rush began! By 1849 90,000 gold-seekers came to California—by land and by sea.



In 1850 Sacramento, near John Sutter's fort, would become California's state capital—and in 1869 the western terminus for the transcontinental railroad which connected East and West Coasts for the first time.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION

The gold rush drew foreigners from all over the world. Resentment against them found expression in a Foreign Miners' Tax. Hostility toward Chinese immigrants often was expressed through violence.

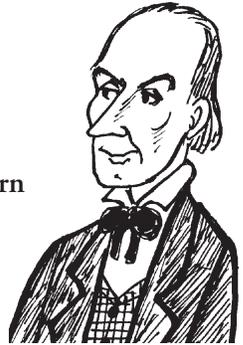


15 ★ THE COMPROMISE OF 1850

In 1848, as a result of winning the Mexican War, the United States acquired from Mexico the vast new territories of California and New Mexico.

1492 1850 2010

HENRY CLAY, THE GREAT COMPROMISER



The Mexican War intensified sectional conflicts and made slavery a political issue for the first time since the Compromise of 1820. Before and after 1820, there had been an unspoken agreement among factions to avoid making slavery a political issue.

In 1846 Pennsylvania Congressman David Wilmot—representing the antislavery, northeastern segment of the Democratic party—introduced the Wilmot Proviso which proposed banning slavery in territory acquired from Mexico (except Texas). The Wilmot Proviso twice passed the northern dominated House of Representatives and twice failed in the southern dominated Senate, so it did not become a law. It did, however, stir a bitter four-year debate.

Debate heated up when California, quickly populated after the discovery of gold in 1848, applied for admission as a free state. Admittance would upset the balance of 15 free and 15 slave states.

Senator Henry Clay, now an old man of 73, saved the day. Sponsor of the Compromise of 1820 and the 1833 Compromise Tariff, Clay had learned Benjamin Franklin's technique for helping opposite sides shave a little off each side to make two boards fit.

Clay masterminded the Compromise of 1850. His greatest legislative achievement, it delayed the Civil War for a decade. Can you see how both North and South shaved a little off their sides?

THE COMPROMISE OF 1850

1. California
admitted as a free state (Adv.: North)

2. Utah Territory
The two territories could vote on whether to permit slavery. (Advantage: South)

3. Texas
Texas gave up her western boundary claim of the Rio Grande River in return for U.S. assumption of her \$10,000,000 debt from days of the Texas Republic. This strip of land was added to the New Mexico Territory. (Advantage: balanced)

4. Washington, D.C.
The slave trade (but not slavery) was abolished in the District of Columbia. (Advantage: North)

5. Fugitive Slave Law
A strong fugitive slave law was passed to ensure the return of runaway slaves. (Advantage: South)

Definition: compromise—to settle differences by mutual concessions

Sign: COMPROMISE OF 1850

16 ★ CALIFORNIA STATEHOOD, 1850

“We do not believe that the news of a brilliant victory was ever received by a people with greater joy than was the news yesterday that California is now one of the brightest stars in our glorious galaxy of states.”

—*San Francisco Courier*, 1850

ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1850, CALIFORNIA JOINED THE UNITED STATES AS THE THIRTY-FIRST STATE, WITH PETER H. BURNETT, A DEMOCRAT, THE FIRST GOVERNOR.

SACRAMENTO, A NEW CITY CREATED DURING THE GOLD RUSH, BECAME THE CAPITAL.

CALIFORNIA ENTERED THE UNION AS A FREE STATE BECAUSE OF THE COMPROMISE OF 1850.

