

### *Book Reviews*

of his son. And he made a fast recovery by dealing Monte, his old standby gambling game, so that just before his death at past 94, he was able to have a friend dig into his cellar floor and recover \$7,500.00 which he had buried for an emergency.

If you want the story of one of the West's shady characters, this book should give it to you.—*Lorrin L. Morrison.*

COUNTRY OF THE SUN, by Scott O'Dell. (The Cornwall Press, Inc., Cornwall, N.Y. — 1957) 310 pp.

Listed as "Southern California — An informal history and guide," Mr. O'Dell says it is "informal in the sense that things left out had been left out on purpose." The style in which the author writes is a combination of novelist, humorist, newspaper columnist and historian which, all in all, makes for enjoyable and informative reading.

"Country of the Sun" describes the origin and development of the nine Southern California counties: San Diego, Imperial, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Inyo, and Los Angeles. Not only does it contain a comprehensive history of each county but also gives interesting and often overlooked sidelights and legends. San Diego is covered from the beginning through the "Juan Jose" Warner episodes, and Horton and Kate Sessions periods. The Imperial County chapter includes the Patties, the Yuma Crossing difficulties and the fate of the "Topolo-bompo" in 1922. Orange County reiterates portions of the story of Richard Henry Dana. Scott O'Dell tells of how Joaquin Murietta came to the California gold fields where he was beaten, and Carmen, his pretty young wife, was murdered—thus he turned avenger. San Bernardino brings in the "Jed" Smith story, the Lugos, Wilsons, and the Mormon settlement. The chapter on Riverside tells the legends of the lost Spanish galleon and the White Camel — a descendant of one of Beale's animals. Ventura is about the Chumashans or the people of the red canoes and the lost woman of the San Nicholas Island. Santa Barbara chapter again quotes from Dana, tells of José Lobero and Milo Potter. Inyo County contains Death Valley, called "Tomesha" (Ground Afire) by the Indians, and so tells of the Jayhawkers and the mines, including the legendary Lost Gunsight. Of course, there was the borax twenty mule teams and Death Valley Scotty. The Los Angeles County chapter, last but by far not the least, tells of how Los Angeles is pronounced many ways but usually is referred to as just "L.A.": the Indian

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

name for this area was "Yang-na." O'Dell says that strangely enough there is not even a street named after Felipe de Neve, founder of the City, or Father Serra. Incidents are given of the lawless fifties and sixties and the troubles the sheriffs had in their attempts to keep law and order. This chapter includes the Cerro Gordo, the P. Banning and Collis P. Huntington railroads with the literal fight for water with Owens Valley.

At the end of the chapter on the various counties are inspiring lists of "Places to Go" with brief descriptions. There is also a list of "Fiestas, Festivals, and Events" enumerated according to the month. Any attempt to see these scenic and historical spots or to attend even a portion of the events would make anyone's calendar very full. To make the book even more complete, there are suggested books for supplementary reading.—*Mrs. Joseph M. Northrop.*