

THE ANNALS OF IOWA

His study of the worst ecological disaster in the history of the country has important implications for today. He concludes that another severe dust bowl is inevitable. The Great Plains cannot be pushed to feed the world's increasing appetite for wheat without becoming a sterile desert. He proposes two alternatives as a solution: learn to discipline the world's numbers and wants before nature does it or help less fortunate nations to raise their own wheat in order to make them self-sufficient in ways that are ecologically sound.

Excellent photographs and maps add much to the interest of both books. These two histories are "must" reading for anyone concerned about the ecological balance in the United States, the repeated threat of possible droughts and their impact on the agricultural industry, and the economy in general of the Southwest and Midwest.

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The Road West: Saga of the 35th Parallel, by Bertha S. Dodge. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1980. pp. vii, 222. Illustrations, map, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$15.95.

This work, evidently an expansion of the author's *Story of Inscription Rock* (Canaan, N.H.: Phoenix Publishing, 1975), attempts to describe travel from the Rio Grande to the Colorado River over the southern Colorado Plateau before the railroad. It remarks on early Spanish ventures west, tells about the entry of American fur hunters into Arizona, and concentrates on the wagon road of Edward F. Beale and the hardships of the first emigrants who used it. The book includes quotations and paraphrases from several unpublished or hard-to-find sources and a section of well-reproduced photographs of pioneers never before seen. Especially useful is the complete transcript of the L. J. Rose claim against the government for damages at the hands of Mojave Indians in 1858.

In the spring of 1858 Leonard John Rose moved from Van Buren County, Iowa, accompanied by his family and the families of S. M. Jones and Alpha Brown, with the intention of settling in southern California. In Kansas they picked up the smaller party of John Udell and proceeded to New Mexico, evidently with the plan of going by the Gila Trail. At Albuquerque, however, they were induced by some Americans to take the newly surveyed road due west through Zuni Pueblo to Beale's crossing of the Colorado River. Harassed by Indians (probably Hualapais), they persevered and managed to get across the mountains to the river with only the loss of some cattle and two

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horses. While they prepared to cross the stream on August 31, they were attacked by several hundred Mojave Indians. Eight of the Rose party were killed, including Brown, and nearly the entire outfit—cattle and horses, five wagons, food and clothing, and household goods—was abandoned. The Roses returned to Albuquerque but Leonard John bounced back. He borrowed money, bought a rundown inn in Santa Fe, and in two years had parlayed the now-famous La Fonda Hotel into a \$14,000 property. Selling out, he finally made it to California where he became a successful vintner, horse breeder, and real estate speculator. The last venture, however, ruined him and in 1899, aged seventy-two, "unable to face poverty or arrange yet another rise to affluence, he died by his own hand, leaving his futile depredation suit to be continued by his wife . . ." (p. 184).

Casual readers will find much of interest here, and they may even like Dodge's breezy style and her frequent injections of personal opinion. This reviewer treasures the author's 130-page guidebook to the history of El Morro National Monument for the very good reason that Dodge knows a great deal about Inscription Rock; and for the not-so-good reason that when one is camped in the cedars gazing on that spectacular chunk of sandstone a casual approach to history *sans* footnotes seems appropriate. But the author erred in assuming that Inscription Rock has much to do with the history of travel along the 35th Parallel of north latitude that was specified in the Act of Congress of 1853. When Dodge leaves the environs of El Morro, she is on very uncertain terrain—figuratively with regard to her sources and literally because she has slight appreciation of the land west of Zuni where most of the action takes place.

This book will get good use in public libraries and schools, and it may lead novices to more serious treatments of the subject found in Dodge's bibliography. Unfortunately that tool suffers from numerous omissions. Not really a "bibliography" at all, it simply lists the sixty-five sources used by the author in direct quotes. The map supplied is also too small and inaccurate. The specialist who already knows something of western exploration and American history in the 1850s will not spend much time on *The Road West*.

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