

Notes on Our Corresponding Members

"My chief interest in Western American history during the past 10 or 12 years has been in gathering and writing material on contemporary Middle-Western people who are contributing to American arts and letters of the present era" writes NORMAN BASSETT. "This material has appeared in a small magazine that I have sponsored for our company and its name is Demcourier. Am sending you several copies. This magazine has been temporarily suspended because of the acute paper shortage and also manpower shortage in our printing plant". The copies sent by Mr. Bassett included the issues devoted to the careers of Artists Thomas Benton, Rockwell Kent and John Steuart Curry, Cartoonist Carl Anderson ("Henry"), Composers Cecil Burleigh and Carrie Jacobs Bond and Authors Majorie Kinnan Rawlings, Mark Schorer, August Derleth and Helen C. White. All contain unusually interesting material and it is to be hoped that Demcourier will soon resume publication.

E. A. BRININSTOOL has sent to the editor of the Brand Book a copy of the September 28, 1944 issue of WINNERS OF THE WEST, official bulletin of the National Indian War Veterans U.S.A., which carries the complete text of "The Custer Fight - Captain F. W. Benteen's Story of the Battle of the Little Big Horn, June 25-26, 1876" which Mr. Brininstool edited, copyrighted and issued as a booklet in a limited edition several years ago. He has given the Brand Book permission to reprint this narrative if desired.

MERRILL G. BURLINGAME became interested in WESTERNERS when his fellow faculty member at Montana State college, E. DOUGLAS BRANCH, showed him a copy of the Brand Book and immediately afterwards sent in his application for membership. Born in Boone, Iowa (March 31, 1901) Professor Burlingame attended public schools in Luther, Iowa, and the Capital City Commercial college in Des Moines until 1920 when he became a clerk for the Chicago and Northwestern railroad at Boone. Stayed there three years, then became chief clerk for the Northwestern at Casper, Wyo. where he remained for a year before entering the State University of Iowa. Graduated in 1927, he taught in the high school at Thief River Falls, Minn. the next year and in Kearney, Neb. the next, in the meantime getting his master's degree at Iowa U. Appointed an instructor in history at Montana State college in 1929, he did graduate work at the University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin, summer sessions, for the next three years. Appointed acting head of the department of history at Montana State in 1932, he became professor of history and head of the department in 1935 and got his Ph.D. at Iowa the following year.

LEE H. CORNELL (nominated for membership by MANNEL HAHN) is a native of Oklahoma (born in Kay county, near Ponca City, February 28, 1904 while Oklahoma was still a territory) who moved to Wichita, Kan. in 1922 where he entered University of Wichita. Graduated in 1926 he became a geologist with the Stanolind Oil and Gas company, a position he has held since that time. He's a life member of the Kansas Historical society and the Wichita Public Museum association.

"Vol. 1, No. 6 of the Brand Book is at hand" writes O.W. COURSEY, "and, of course, Mrs. Coursey and I haven't been worth a darn for anything else until we got through reading it. In no other time in American history has so much valuable information with regard to the Old West been assembled in such fine shape and in such small space. I must congratulate WESTERNERS on this fine publication. What a valuable file of Americana the Brand Book is going to make!"

Similar note comes from LIEUT. EDWARD EMERINE who writes: "I've been intending to write and let you know how much I enjoy the Brand Book. In my spare time (which is not much) I've been collecting and setting down some anecdotes on St. Joe. Just what in hell I'll ever do with them is something I haven't figured out. It's just that once you're a writer you keep at it wherever you are. More truthfully, I'm just a reporter and will never get over it. So I'm taking an interest in early St. Joe, the Pony Express, the James Boys, etc. But if I ever publish the stuff, it will be