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V. 4

Manning Agnes, in
Overland Monthly
San Francisco, 1884.

3-7-38 H.
Mentoring.

Concepcion Argüello

photo

Clearer, however, than all other pictures against the background of the old, old days stands out the tender and strong outline of one sweet woman. No record of the old life at the Capital would be complete without her. There are many memories of many a fair Fremonta to lend a charm to the annals of the old pueblo. One hears still from her contemporaries stories of the brilliant sallies of the talented Augustia, the spirited heroine of Dana's dear old book. But one slender maiden, robed in gray, who moved about, a ministering angel to all sorrow and distress, who taught the Indian children, and was loved by them, is the central figure about which the legends gather. It is the beautiful

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Maunary

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Concepcion Argüello

p. 40.

Concepcion Argüello, who looked from that ruined window, not across the far sea for the lover who would return no more, but to the clear heaven where her holy life and lofty faith taught her that all real love shall last forever. Only a "tale of a woman's devotion," but has not such another tale hallowed our land from the bleak shores of the North ~~Mississippi~~ to the bayous of the Mississippi? It is not because of her sweet oval face, nor dark Spanish beauty, nor the cruel sorrow that set its seal on her young life, that she interests us.

It is the fidelity and trust, the nobility of purpose, the self-abnegation, the strong love that can lead to renunciation and is only possible to the highest nature. Then, too, a poet touched with his magic pencil, and lo! she is framed in our memories forever. In the clear and cloudless

3-7-38. ST. 3

Monterey

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 Vol. 4

Concepcion Argüello.

fo. 40. Skies, in the luminous atmosphere, on the
 far blue hills, and on the Calce mysterious
 sea, we see everywhere the sweet, sad face,
 and long, gray robes of the first California
 Queen!

3/19/38

B&B.

11

Of Monterey Women

Berk Lib
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Señora Fager

First Woman named in History
of California (Whaler)

Atherton, Gertrude California:

An Intimate Guide History

6 pp. ms

New York, Boni 1927.

p 40

344 pp, illus, index.

The Señora Fager has the honor to be the first woman named in the history of California. Of wives and daughters accompanied the previous governors and their officers they were too meek to win mention in the records, but the helpmate of Fager was an individual if not an angel. As it is not possible that she was with her husband during that first expedition into unknown territory, this lady of high degree, and consequence in the City of Mexico, must have had the courage to take the long and

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has arduous journey with a child and a
retinue of ignorant poor servants,
practically alone. But that same
spirit made her too mettlesome for
the hearthstone. And brave and
hardy as she was, she dominated
the rough presidio life that awaited
her at Monterey. No doubt she had
read Montalvo and dreamed her
dreams. To be sure, the missionaries
and settlers were cultivating the fields,
and her table was loaded with
delicate fish and luscious fruits,
venison, fowl, and bear-steak;
there were pine woods on the hills
where she and the officers' ladies
could roam and talk of the City of
Mexico, and look at whales
spouting iridescent geysers in the
bay, a bay as blue as the vice-
regent's sapphires, and curving to
silver sands; she could thrill at
P. 41 the whoops of unbaptized Indians
preying around the stockade

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Monterey
Señora Fages

First Woman named in History
of California.

Bull fight

Atherton, Gertrude California:

cont'd An Intimate Guide

p 41.

at night; and on Sunday, after mass, she could attire herself in a flowered gown, drape her handsome head in a mantilla, and, coquettishly wielding a fan from Madrid, sit on the corridor surrounded by gallant officers and watch a bull fight or hear in the plaza; and there were fiestas aplenty at the missions. But, although everybody seems to have worked himself to the bone to please her, there was no peace in the governor's mansion - which she called an adobe hovel. She wanted the pleasures and excitements of the City of Mexico; and as the governor, talked to her of the

public consolation of the Church, and were treated with high disdain.

Exhausting her resources in other directions, she pretended to be jealous of her husband, that stern dispenser of stocks and stripes to amorous soldiers. In her determination to amuse herself with a scandal she became a scandal herself, for she hurled her wrongs into the public ear, which expanded to twice its natural size.

Once more the distracted fates appealed to the priests, and this time they entered her sala with the authority of the Church and threatened her with handcuffs and a sound whipping. Her sallow laughter could be heard all over the presidio. Well she knew that never would they dare to put such an indignity upon the Señora Gobernadora, even

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Monterey
Senora Fajal

First Woman named in California

Alherton, Gertrude, California:

An Intimate Guide

p 42.

though she belonged to that sex held in such casual regard by the men of her race. The padre gathered up, and Capt. Nicolas Solar, first in military command, was next called in. Solar was not only a disciplinarian of the first water, but diplomatic and resourceful. He began by upbraiding her furiously, telling her that she was a keg of gun-powder full of sparks which sooner or later would blow up California and lower the prestige of Spain in the eyes of the world. This flattered her, and she applied herself to calming the indignant officer, who in turn wheedled

her. Perhaps her mood of revolt
had worn itself out; in this more
enlightened era it would seem that
the poor exiled lady was merely
suffering from weariness and idleness.
She settled down finally into the
leader of fashion, not only for
Monterey, but for the other presidios.
Her maiden name was Eulalia
Challis, and she deserves fame
as the first woman of California to
assert her rights and stand up on
them, albeit her methods were a
bit old-fashioned. Peace was re-
stored in the gubernatorial
mansion by the unconditional
surrender of the governor himself.
Every packet-boat until the end
of the Fager administration in 1790
brought her gowns and mantillas,
guitars, and fans, music and candle-
bra. From the city of Mexico. But all breathed
more freely when she left; and so,
no doubt, did she.

(11)

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Monterey
Diego de Barcia
(Spanish Governor)

Atterton, Gertrude California:

4 pp. ms.

An Intimate Guide.

p 42-43

Bull fights

New York, Boni-1927.

344 pp. index, illus.

Doña Josefa Romera, whose husband succeeded Fages, had no chance to display what individuality she may have possessed, for she was fully occupied nursing a man who was a prey to insomnia and finally to tuberculosis. He died in 1792, and Don José de Arillaga served as Gobernador interino for two years. Diego de Barcia received the appointment of Gobernador propietario by a royal order from Madrid in June, 1793, but did not arrive in Monterey until the following year.

(21) § 43.

Barica was the first man of solid intellectual attainments to take up his residence in California.

Mexico was already old enough to have its scholars and seats of learning, and with these Barica had been in close touch, delighting in literary and controversial hours. . . . The priests had their hands full educating the Indians in religion, agriculture, and manufacturing. The commandants of the four presidios - Monterey, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and San Francisco found themselves as fully occupied with military duties, sieges, flinting, bull-fights, and cock-fights; they would have thought it a sin to waste time cultivating their minds. . . .

But Barica, now a man of fifty, was also a soldier. He did as he was told.

For a few weeks after his arrival in Monterey he had the consolation

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Monterey
Diego de Borica
Spanish Governor

Atherton, Gertrude, California:
An Intimate Guide.
New York, Boni 1929.

p 43 Cont'd

344 pp. index, illus.

of the society of two explorers and men of the world, George Vancouver and Peter Puget, who were anchored in the harbor; but even before they sailed away he had set himself to work to improve conditions in general with a zeal that never flagged throughout the five years and eight months of his administration

p 45.

But Borica's chief and lasting work was the schools he founded.

p 46.

In 1799 Borica felt himself worn out with his unremitting

labors and asked to be relieved.
 His release came in January of
 the following year, and with his
 devoted family he returned at
 once to Mexico; but not to enjoy
 the society of scholars and books.
 He died six months later.

[Faint, mirrored bleed-through text from the reverse side of the page, including phrases like "the society of the scholars", "and men of the world", "in the harbor", "they sailed away", "to work to improve conditions", "general with a goal that was", "shattered throughout the", "years and right", "administration", "But Barrera's chief and lasting", "work was the school he founded.", "In 1909 Barrera felt himself", "worn out with his unremittent"]