

Lynwood Carranco and Estle Beard. *Genocide and Vendetta: The Indian Wars of Northern California*. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1981) ix, 403 pp., \$19.95.

Indian and white relations in northern California is a subject that has made little impact on the American historical imagination. Only Theodora Kroeber's *Ishi in Two Worlds*, a book that derives its power from romantic concepts of the noble savage and the vanishing red man, has garnered much of an audience. What is sorely needed are histories of such tribes as the Pomo, Hupa, Witun, and Maidu that take them from the 1820s into the 20th century. Such study is difficult to pursue; the rapidity with which California's native peoples were overrun and their cultures shattered has left a chaotic record. *Genocide and Vendetta* illustrates this difficulty. Despite extensive research, Carranco, a professor of English at the College of the Redwoods in Eureka, and Beard, a retired rancher from Covelo, are unable to maintain any narrative continuity on either the Yuki and other tribes that inhabited the Round Valley area, or on the Valley itself.

The authors have divided their story into two sections and in each focus upon dramatic episodes in the American settlement of the region between the Middle Fork of the Eel River and the South Fork of the Trinity. The first six chapters concern the period before 1865, revealing a pattern of violence and indicating how local interests largely determined Indian policy. A flood of miners and settlers after 1848 insured early statehood for California and negated federal attempts to apply the Trade and Intercourse Act and to establish treaty relations. California statutes regulating Indian affairs, passed in 1850, encouraged the abuse of Indian labor in a system akin to slavery. Such reservations as Round Valley, established first as a farm in 1856, served merely as collecting areas open to slave raiders and murderers. The Yuki, whose population numbered 6,880 in 1850 according to S. F. Cook, had declined to barely 300 in 1864. The brutality of this era is well documented in Robert Heizer's *The Destruction of the California Indians* (Peregrine Smith, 1974), a work not listed by the authors.

The second section concerns the careers of Frank and Pierce Asbill and of George E. White, who came to Round Valley in 1854 and dominated local affairs into the 1890s. White, the so-called "King of Round Valley," continually engaged in the intimidation of homesteaders and occasionally resorted to murder. His reputation was severely tarnished and his finances drained when several of his henchmen were convicted in 1895, after a series of sensational trials, for the murder of one of White's former associates. This is interesting material but it only indicates the authors' interest in drama and does

not add to our knowledge of Indian and white relations after 1865. Sensing this deficiency, the authors add a 21-page appendix that outlines the history of the reservation to 1940. Although the authors include extensive footnotes and bibliography, an index, two maps, and numerous illustrations and photographs, the need for a detailed, ethnohistorical study continues to exist.

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