

Trailing the California bandit

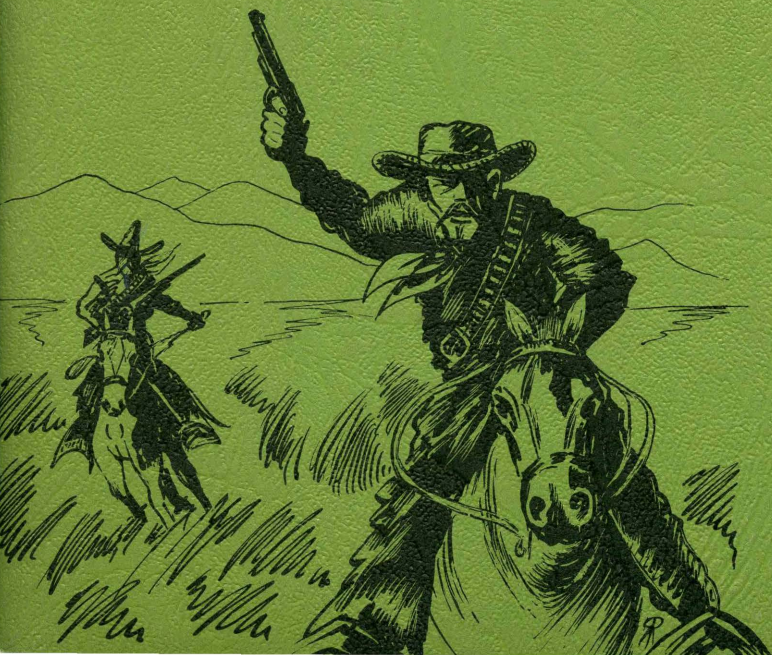
TIBURCIO

VASQUEZ

1835

1875

by *Ralph Rambo*



PIONEER SERIES

NO. 3



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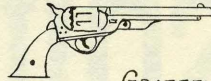
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ILLUSTRATIONS AND
HAND-LETTERED TEXT
BY THE AUTHOR

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SAN JOSE MERCURY 1875

HISTORIC SPOTS IN CALIF. - HOOVER & RENSCH

EXTRACTS FROM NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND
LOCAL COUNTY RECORDS OF THE PERIOD.

FOREWORD



CALIFORNIA BANDIT HISTORY IS OBSCURED IN A LITERARY BLEND OF LEGEND, FOLKLORE, AND INTERMINGLED FACT AND FICTION. HISTORIANS DISAGREE ON OUTLAWS' NAMES AS WELL AS DATES AND DETAILS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES. AUTHORS LESS DEDICATED TO FACT OFTEN DEPICT SOME NOTORIOUS BADMAN AS A ROMANTIC MIXTURE OF ZORRO AND ROBIN HOOD, TYPICALLY AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF BLOOD AND THUNDER WHICH PALES ONLY IN COMPARISON WITH THE CUMULATIVE MAYHEM OF TODAY'S "GUNSMOKE."

JOAQUÍN MURIETA IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF SUCH CONFUSION. NO ONE MAN COULD POSSIBLY HAVE PERPETRATED SO MANY FAR SEPARATED, SIMULTANEOUSLY OCCURRING CRIMES, OR COULD HAVE INHABITED SUCH AN INCREDIBLE NUMBER OF "MURIETA" CAVES, ROCKS AND FAVORITE LAIRS. IN THE 1850'S, BANDITS RAN RAMPANT OVER MOST OF CALIFORNIA AND A REMARKABLE NUMBER BORE THE SURNAME OF "JOAQUÍN." CAREFUL HISTORIANS, CORRELATING REPORTS, CAN PRODUCE AT LEAST FIVE SEPARATE "JOAQUÍNS"—CARILLO, BOTTILIER, VALENZUÉLO, OCOMORENO AND MURIETA—ALL ACTIVE AT THE SAME TIME! THE AGGREGATE FANCY OF WRITERS OF THE PERIODS REPRESENTED IN REAMS OF ROMANTIC AND USUALLY LEGENDARY PRESENTATIONS.

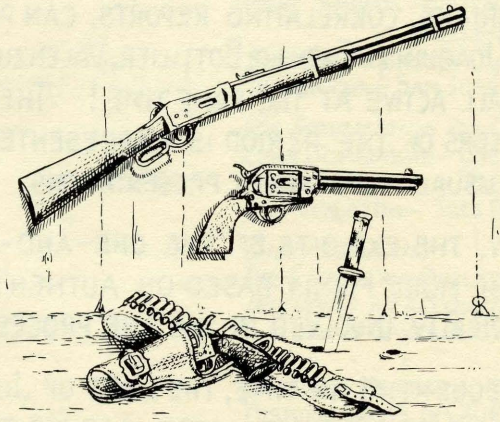
FORTUNATELY, THE EXPLOITS OF THE ONE-AND-ONLY TIBURCIO VASQUEZ CAN BE MORE FIRMLY BASED ON AUTHENTIC RECORDS—HE WAS PERIODICALLY INVOLVED IN THE DUE PROCESS OF LAW.

THOUGH SEQUENTIAL IN TIME, THE LIVES OF JOAQUÍN MURIETA, (ONE AND ALL) AND OF VASQUEZ, WERE MARKED BY SIMILARITIES, BOTH IN "SKILLS OF THE TRADE" AND IN GEOGRAPHIC PATTERN. THEY WERE STAGE ROBBERS, HORSE THIEVES AND KILLERS. THEY WERE EARLY-CALIFORNIA GANGSTERS ON HORSEBACK AND BY MANY

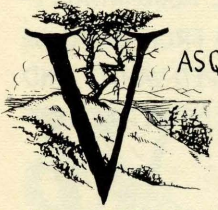
OF THEIR COMPATRIOTS THEY WERE ADMIRERD, AND FEARED, AND FOR BOTH REASONS WERE OFTEN SHELTERED AND PROTECTED. THEY LED LIVES PLEDGED TO A WARFARE AGAINST ORGANIZED SOCIETY; MURIETA'S ACTUATED BY THE "BLINDING URGE OF SMOLDERING REVENGE," AND VASQUEZ' EITHER BY VAIN IMPULSE, LOVE OF NOTORETY OR, AS HIS CONTEMPORARIES CONTENDED, SIMPLY FROM "PURE, BORN CUSSEDNESS" AS NATIVE CALIFORNIANS THEY FELT THEIR RACE WAS VICTIMIZED AND THEIR SOCIAL RIGHTS ABUSED BY THE EVER INCREASING INFUX OF THE INTOLERANT "GRINGO." IN MANY CASES SUCH FEELINGS WERE ENTIRELY JUSTIFIED.

WHEN ONE OF THE "SUPPOSED" MURIETAS PAID THE PENALTY AT THE AGE OF 24 HE HAD BEEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT ONLY THREE YEARS. VASQUEZ WAS MORE DURABLE. COUNTING THE 10 YEARS SPENT IN STATE PRISON, HIS SKILL, DARING AND LUCK ENABLED HIM TO SPREAD A LURID CAREER OVER A SPAN OF MORE THAN TWO DECADES.

VASQUEZ CANNOT BE CONSIDERED "THE BANDIT OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY," FOR HE RANGED WIDELY FROM SONOMA TO LOS ANGELES. BUT OUR VALLEY WAS HIS WATERLOO AND IN THE END IT WAS HERE THAT HE WAS JAILED, CONVICTED, EXECUTED AND BURIED.



VASQUEZ



VASQUEZ WAS BORN IN A MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA ADOBE NEAR COLTON HALL, AUGUST 1, 1835. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE WAS RELATED TO A TIBURCIO VASQUEZ WHOSE NAME APPEARS ON AN OLD MAP AND ON THE LIST OF THE FIRST POBLADORES SELECTED TO SETTLE THE PUEBLO DE SAN JOSÉ IN 1781— OR TO DON JOSÉ TIBURCIO VASQUEZ, A MEMBER OF CAPTAIN JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZAS EXPEDITION WHICH ARRIVED IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1776. HIS PARENTS WERE RESPECTABLE CITIZENS AND HE HAS THREE BROTHERS AND TWO SISTERS FOLLOWED IN THE TRADITION. THE YOUNG TIBURCIO ATTENDED SCHOOL IN MONTEREY AND WAS SAID TO HAVE HAD ABOVE AVERAGE INTELLIGENCE AS FOR HIS YOUTHFUL ACTIVITIES, IT IS RECORDED ONLY THAT HE WAS A "PALE, WILD AND HARUM-SCARUM BOY."

AS AN ADULT, HE WAS LIGHT COMPLEXIONED, WITH FULL LIPS AND FINE WHITE TEETH, BLACK HAIR AND HAD A SUNKEN LEFT EYE. HIS HEIGHT VARIES IN DIFFERENT BIOGRAPHIES BUT ACCORDING TO SANTA CLARA COUNTY RECORDS HE WAS JUST UNDER FIVE AND A HALF FEET TALL AND COULD NOT HAVE WEIGHED IN EXCESS OF 140 LBS. THIS LIGHT WEIGHT WAS TO PROVE A BOON TO THE (ALWAYS WHITE) HORSES HE RODE IN HIS MANY EXHAUSTING MARATHON ESCAPES. HE DRESSED WITH EXTRAVAGANT NEATNESS IN CHARACTERISTIC, EARLY CALIFORNIO COSTUMES. HE WORE A RATHER THIN AND SCRAGGLY MOUSTACHE AND CHIN BEARD, HARDLY THE IMAGE TO REFLECT HIS REIGN OF TERROR AND CONSEQUENT REPUTATION. WHEN THE OCCASION DEMANDED, HE COULD BE GRACIOUS WITH A POLITENESS BORDERING THE CHARMING DURING MANY OF HIS ROBBERIES HE TOOK PAINS TO APOLOGIZE, LIGHTLY EXPLAINING THAT THE VICTIM'S LOSS WAS ONLY TEMPORARY AND WAS TO BE CONSIDERED MERELY A LOAN LATER TO BE REPAYED WITH INTEREST. BUT NO SUCH REIMBURSEMENT WAS EVER RECORDED!

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT REGARDING HIS ROMANTIC PURSUITS! IN FACT THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS AMOROUS BRIGAND'S LOVE LIFE WAS SUCH

THAT ONE WONDERS HOW HE EVER FOUND THE TIME-OR THE ENERGY FOR SIMPLE BANDITRY! YOUNG VASQUEZ WAS A GREAT FAVORITE WITH THE MONTEREY SENORITAS AND LATER WOULD MAINTAIN A WIDE ACQUAINTANCE-SHIP AMONG THE DARK-EYED BEAUTIES IN MANY A CANTINA FROM SAN JOSÉ TO LOS ANGELES. PERHAPS THEY FIRED HIS OVER-DEVELOPED VANITY AND STIMULATED HIS DREAMS OF CONQUEST; IN FACT IT WAS TO BE AN AMOROUS LAPSE THAT INDIRECTLY LED TO HIS INGLORIOUS DEMISE.



SENORITAS IN MANY A CANTINA-FROM SAN JOSÉ TO LOS ANGELES.

The making of a bandit



WHILE NOT REACHING THE PEAK OF HIS "CAREER" UNTIL ABOUT 1870, VASQUEZ STARTED HIS CALVALCADE OF CRIME IN MONTEREY IN 185 AT THE AGE OF 6. HE FELL INTO THE LOW COMPANY OF ANASTACIO GARCIA (ALSO KNOWN AS THREE-FINGERED JACK), A HORSE-THIEF AND ROBBER. VASQUEZ, GARCIA AND ANOTHER QUESTIONABLE CHARACTER, JOSÉ HIGUERA, ONE NIGHT ATTENDED A FANDANGO IN A MONTEREY CANTINA. AGUARDIENTE FLOWED FREELY AND GARCIA BECAME INSANELY DRUNK. CONSTABLE WILLIAM HARDMOUNT OF MONTEREY, A POPULAR OFFICER, WAS CALLED TO QUIET THE ENSUING RIOT. HE WAS FATALLY SHOT OR STABBED BY ONE OF THE TRIO, WHICH ONE WAS NEVER TO BE DEFINITELY DETERMINED. VASQUEZ AND GARCIA FLED, BUT THE SEVERELY WOUNDED HIGUERA WAS CAUGHT BY A MONTEREY MOB AND SUMMARILY HANGED THE NEXT MORNING.

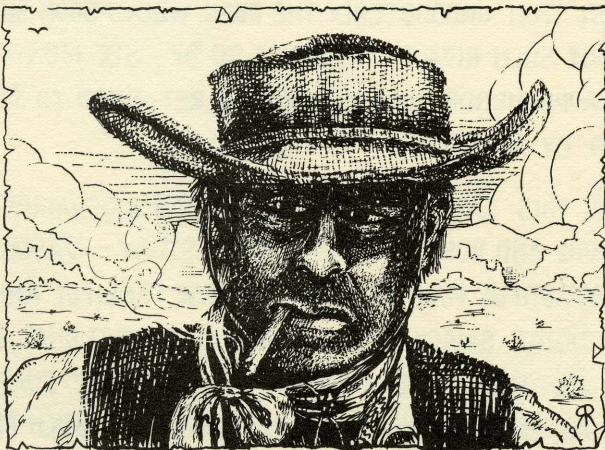
DURING THEIR FOLLOWING "RETREAT" IN A MOUNTAIN HIDEOUT, GARCIA TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH HIS WILLING NEOPHYTE THE RUDIMENTS OF AMBUSH AND ROBBERY. VASQUEZ PROVED AN EAGER LISTENER, SHOWING SUCH APTITUDE IN HIS "PRACTICE" FORAYS ON LONELY WAYFARERS AS TO SUGGEST THAT UNDOUBTEDLY THE PUPIL WOULD SOON SURPASS THE TEACHER. BUT SUCH RIVALRY WAS NOT TO BE; SIX MONTHS LATER—GARCIA WAS APPREHENDED IN LOS ANGELES, RETURNED TO MONTEREY AND LYNCHED BY A MOB.

AT ABOUT THIS CAREER POINT, MANY EARLY BIOGRAPHERS INSERTED AN ADVENTUROUS AND ROMANTIC LITTLE LOVE STORY—VASQUEZ' ABDUCTION OF "THE BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN ANITA". THESE FANCIFUL AND HIGHLY VARIABLE ACCOUNTS SMACK STRONGLY OF THE SENSATIONAL, DIME-NOVEL INFLUENCE. THE TRUE ADVENTURES OF VASQUEZ ARE SUFFICIENTLY SENSATIONAL TO REQUIRE NO MODERN VERSION OF SUCH FOLK LORE

AN INTERLUDE OF CALM WAS INITIATED IN 1857 WHEN WITH A COMPANION HE STOLE A HERD OF CATTLE ON THE SANTA CLARA RIVER NEAR LOS ANGELES. VASQUEZ WAS CAPTURED AND SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN SAN QUENTIN. HE SERVED TWO YEARS AND THEN, DURING A GENERAL JAIL BREAK, ESCAPED. RECAPTURED, HE WAS FINALLY RELEASED IN 1863.

FOR A SHORT TIME VASQUEZ TRIED PROFESSIONAL GAMBLING IN THE NEW ALMADEN QUICKSILVER MINES, THEN IN FULL PRODUCTION. HE APPARENTLY DECIDED THERE MUST BE EASIER WAYS TO MAKE MONEY AND WHEN AN ITALIAN BUTCHER WAS MURDERED IN A \$400 ROBBERY IN THE ENRIQUETA MINE VILLAGE, CAPTAIN JAMES HICKS ADAMS, OUR MOST FAMOUS SANTA CLARA COUNTY SHERIFF, STRONGLY SUSPICIONED VASQUEZ' IMPLICATION. BUT BECAUSE HE WAS THE ONLY ONE AVAILABLE SPEAKING SPANISH AND ENGLISH, VASQUEZ, OF ALL PERSONS, WAS ASKED TO ACT AS INTERPRETER AT THE INQUEST! HE "INTERPRETED" THE PROCEEDINGS SO CLEVERLY THAT THE JURY PROMPTLY RETURNED A VERDICT OF "MURDERED BY PERSONS UNKNOWN". SHORTLY THEREAFTER, SHERIFF ADAMS FOUND THAT VASQUEZ AND A FAUSTINO LORENZO WERE INDEED DIRECTLY INVOLVED BUT SUFFICIENT INCRRMINATING EVIDENCE WAS LACKING.

FROM 1864 TO 1866 VASQUEZ MINGLED WITH THE FAMOUS RENEGADES, JUAN SOTO AND TOMAS REDONDO, ALIAS PROCOPIO. SOTO WAS CONSIDERED



JUAN SOTO—THE FIERCEST OUTLAW IN CALIFORNIA



WITHOUT CAMERA OR DIRECTOR

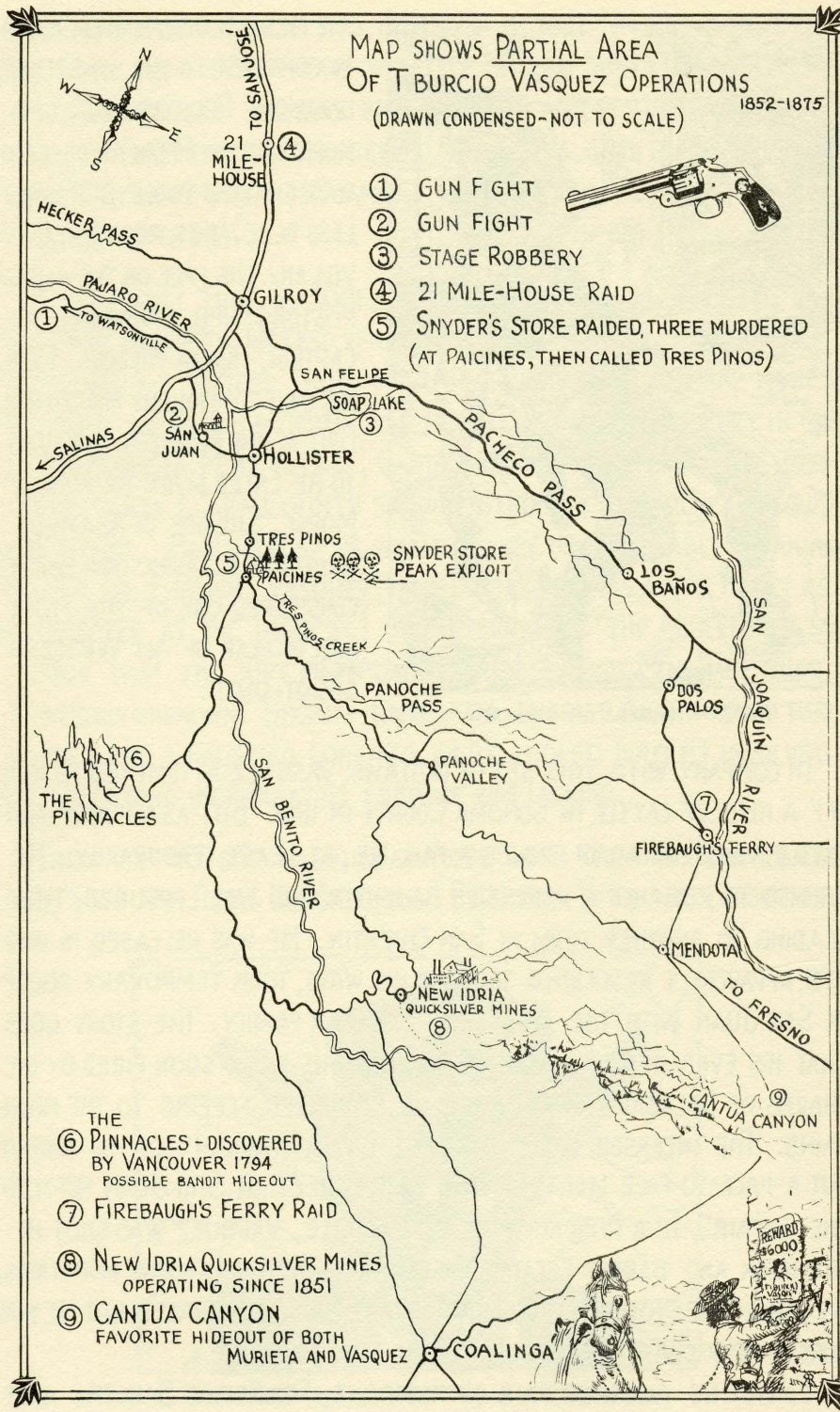
THE FIERCEST OUTLAW IN CALIFORNIA. IN CONTRAST TO THE STARTLINGLY HANDSOME PROCOPPIO, SOTO, OF A MIXED INDIAN-MEXICAN DESCENT WAS 5 X- FEET-TWO, EYES A "NAME-LESS BLUE," AND A PICTURE OF UGLY VILLANY HIS FACE ON THE WANTED POSTERS WELL WARRANTED THE CAPTION, "HUMAN WILDCAT" EVEN HIS OWN COMPANIONS FEARED HIM. BRUTAL AND RUTHLESS, SOTO WAS TO BE LATER SLAIN BY HARRY MORSE, SHERIFF OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, IN A CLASSIC GUN BATTLE CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR OF ALL WESTERN "SHOOT-OUTS."

IN COMPANY WITH THIS SET OF OUTLAWS, VASQUEZ ATTEMPTED TO RUN OFF A HERD OF CATTLE IN SONOMA COUNTY IN 1867 BUT AS A HORSE-AND-CATTLE THIEF HE AGAIN PROVED A FAILURE, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY. HE DALLIED TO ROMANCE A RANCHER'S DAUGHTER AND WAS CAPTURED, THIS LEADING TO ANOTHER TERM IN SAN QUENTIN. HE WAS RELEASED IN 1870 AND, APPARENTLY RESOLVING TO MEND HIS WAYS, TOOK TEMPORARY ABODE IN SAN JUAN WITH THE ABELARDO SALAZAR FAMILY. THE STORY GOES THAT HIS EVER-READY ROMANTIC INCLINATIONS WERE SOON FREED BY THE CHARMS OF SALAZAR'S WIFE WHOM HE ABDUCTED, FLEEING TO THE MOUNTAINS. THE INCENSED SALAZAR SWORE OUT A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST BUT A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING ON A BACK STREET IN SAN JUAN SETTLED THE AFFAIR. IN A TYPICAL WILD WEST BATTLE, VASQUEZ WAS SHOT IN THE NECK AND BARELY ESCAPED EASTWARD INTO THE PANOCHÉ MOUNTAINS. AS USUAL THE TOUGH LITTLE BANDIT QUICKLY RECUPERATED, BUT HE NOW BORE A NECK SCAR THAT WOULD BRAND HIM FOR LIFE.

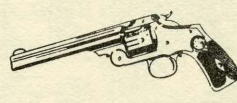
ENLISTING ANOTHER PAIR OF RUFFIANS, FRANCISCO BARCENA AND

MAP SHOWS PARTIAL AREA
OF TURBICIO VÁSQUEZ OPERATIONS
(DRAWN CONDENSED-NOT TO SCALE)

1852-1875



- ① GUN FIGHT
- ② GUN FIGHT
- ③ STAGE ROBBERY
- ④ 21 MILE-HOUSE RAID
- ⑤ SNYDER'S STORE RAIDED, THREE MURDERED
(AT PAICINES, THEN CALLED TRES PINOS)



⑥ THE PINNACLES - DISCOVERED BY VANCOUVER 1794
POSSIBLE BANDIT HIDEOUT

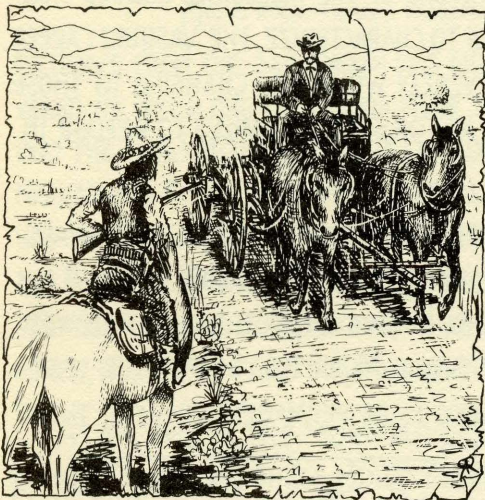
⑦ FIREBAUGH'S FERRY RAID

⑧ NEW IDRIA QUICKSILVER MINES OPERATING SINCE 1851

⑨ CANTUA CANYON FAVORITE HIDEOUT OF BOTH MURIETA AND VASQUEZ



NARCISO RODRIQUEZ, VASQUEZ AND HIS GANG EMERGED TO HOLD UP AND ROB THE STAGE NEAR SOAP LAKE (SAN FELIPE) ON THE PACHECO PASS ROAD, 12 MILES FROM GILROY. EMPLOYING HIS STANDARD PROCEDURE, VASQUEZ ORDERED THE PASSENGERS TO LIE FLAT ON THE GROUND WHILE HE TIED THEIR HANDS. ALSO IN HIS CUSTOM, PERHAPS TO SALVE HIS CONSCIENCE, HE APOLOGIZED FOR THE "DIRELY NEEDED AND ONLY TEMPORARY LOAN" HE WAS ABOUT TO EXTRACT. THESE TWO ROUTINES BECAME SO COMMON THAT THEY NDELIBLY MARKED EACH SUCH CR ME WITH THE VASQUEZ STAMP. A MEAGER \$ 50 IN GOLD WAS OBTAINED, PLUS THE USUAL LOOT OF WATCHES AND JEWELRY.

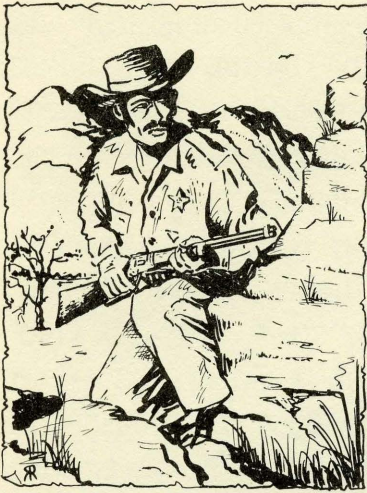


UNTIL THAT DAY—THEY HAD BEEN FRIENDS.

VASQUEZ WAS SO DISGUSTED WITH THIS COMPARATIVELY SMALL "HAUL" THAT ON THE FOLLOW NG DAY HE STOPPED A HOLLISTER BANKER, THOMAS McMAHON, ON THE SAN JUAN ROAD. UNTIL RE- CENTLY THEY WERE FR ENDS, BUT NOW VASQUEZ HAD REASON TO BELIEVE (THROUGH HIS EVER- EFFICIENT GRAPEVINE) THAT TOM McMAHON WAS INVOLVED IN A SCHEME TO EFFECT H S CAPTURE. AT THE POINT OF A GUN HE RE-

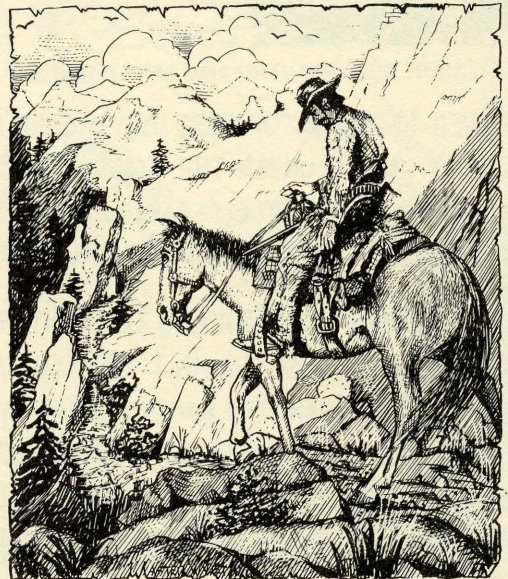
RELIEVED McMAHON OF \$750 BUT MISSED ANOTHER \$500 THE BANKER HAD GENTLY K CKED UNDER THE WAGON SEAT. EVER AFTER, TOM McMAHON CARRIED A LOADED DOUBLE-BARRELLED SHOTGUN ON H S JAUNTS. VASQUEZ PRESUMABLY THEREAFTER LOOKED UNDER WAGON-SEATS.

SHERIFF TOM WASSON OF MONTEREY COUNTY WAS ALERTED AND ORGANIZED A POSSE TO HALT THE COASTAL-BOUND TRIO. IN THE "ROCKS" WEST OF SAN JUAN, THE BANDITS WERE APPARENTLY SURROUNDED. BUT VASQUEZ AND BARCENA, BY DARE-DEVIL R DING, ESCAPED* THEN, H DING BY DAY IN THE SAN M GUEL CANYON HILLS AND THE TULE OF THE ELK- HORN SLOUGH, THE TWO MADE THEIR CAUTIOUS WAY TOWARD SANTA CRUZ. IN SANTA CRUZ, MARSHALL LT ROBERTS WAS WARNED AND THOUGH ALONE,
 (* RODRIQUEZ WAS LATER CAPTURED AND SERVED 10 YEARS IN SAN QUENTIN.)



THE MARSHALL FACED THEM—ALONE
ALWAYS AVAILABLE HORSES, HE RODE AT TOP SPEED 70 MILES TO REFUGE IN
CANTUA CANYON.*

CANTUA CANYON WAS THE FAVORITE HANGOUT OF VASQUEZ, AND IN ALL OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA NO MORE REMOTE, LESS ACCESSIBLE MOUNTAIN FORTRESS COULD HAVE BEEN CHOSEN. IN THIS SELECTION HE FOLLOWED THE EARLIER LEAD OF ONE OF THE SEVERAL MURIETAS. IN FACT THE LAST FEW OF A GANG OF MURIETA DESPERADOS MADE PERMANENT RETREAT THERE AFTER THEIR LEADER'S DEATH. "RETIRED" BANDITS STILL INHABITED THIS AREA AS LATE AS 1900; TODAY ONLY CRUMBLING REMAINS OF 2 ADOBES. BY TRAIL OR PRIMITIVE ROAD, IT WAS SITUATED ABOUT 70 MILES SOUTHEAST OF HOLLISTER AND SAN JUAN BAUTISTA. FROM THE WEST, CANTUA CANYON COULD ONLY BE ENTERED THROUGH SHOULDER-WIDTH, ROCKY GORGES THREADED BY HORSE TRAIL. HERE AT SUCH POINTS A SMALL ARMY COULD BE KEPT AT BAY.



.. WOUNDED—HE RODE 70 MILES

12 *TODAY IT THREADS THE 41,000 ACRE CANTUA LILLIS CATTLE RANCH ON THE PRESENT BOUNDARIES OF SAN BENITO AND FRESNO COUNTIES IN THE GAVILAN MTS. OF THE DIABLO RANGE



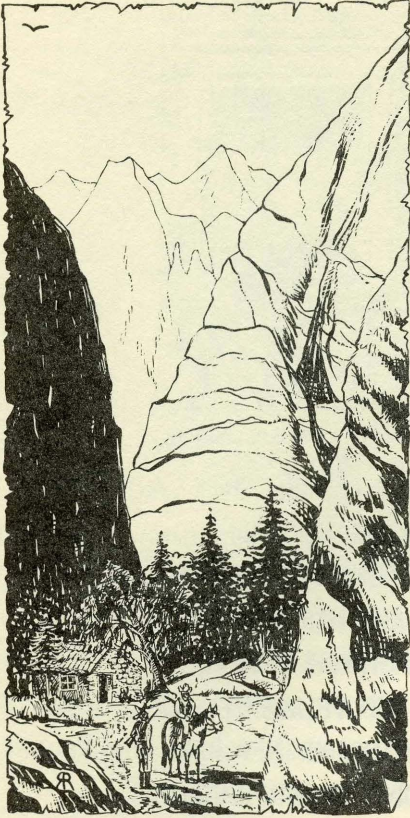
WRONG STAGE - WRONG PASSENGER - AND A TONGUE LASHING

ENTRANCE FROM THE SAN JOAQUÍN WAS MORE ACCESSIBLE SINCE CANTUA^{*} CREEK WOUND ITS WAY ALONG THE CANYON FLOOR THROUGH AN OPENING TOWARD THE EAST INTO THE SAN JOAQUÍN VALLEY. IT CASCADED DOWN STEEP SLOPES FOR TEN MILES, HIGHLIGHTED BY ONE BEAUTIFUL WATERFALL BUT WAS SOON LOST IN THE DESERT-LIKE FLATS BELOW. BARREN SENTINEL PEAKS NEARING 5000 FEET HIGH GUARDED THIS DESOLATE BASTION. A HUNDRED YEARS AGO A SLAUGHTER-HOUSE IN ONE OF THE SIDE CANYONS SUPPLIED MEAT FOR THE NEARBY NEW IDRIA QUICKSILVER MINES, WORKED AS EARLY AS 1850 AND TODAY STILL IN OPERATION.

AT NO TIME IN THE MURIETA-VASQUEZ PERIOD IS THERE RECORD OF EITHER BANDIT MOLESTING THESE MINES DESPITE THEIR PROXIMITY TO THE CANTUA CANYON STRONGHOLD. IT CAN BE SUPPOSED THAT AN ARMISTICE EXISTED BETWEEN THE OUTLAWS AND THE MINE PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT. WHEN LAW OFFICERS INVADDED THIS FORBIDDING TERRITORY AND QUESTIONED THE CHILEAN AND MEXICAN MINERS THEY COULD EXPECT BLANK LOOKS AND A SULLEN, "QUIEN SABE?" THE MINERS HAD SEEN NO BANDITS, HAD IN FACT, NEVER HEARD OF A VASQUEZ OR A MURIETA! BUT TWO SUCH PROWLING LAWMEN ONCE WALKED THE LONG 60 MILES HOME. THE BANDITS STOLE THEIR HORSES!

VASQUEZ TWICE MADE THE MISTAKE OF HOLDING UP THE CONNECTING STAGE BETWEEN THE MINES AND HOLLISTER AND BOTH TIMES HE WITHDREW WITH EMBARRASSMENT. THE FIRST TIME THE STAGE CONTAINED THE MINE SUPERINTENDENT. THE NEXT TIME IT CONTAINED HIS WIFE! THIS IRATE LADY LEANED OUT OF THE STAGE WINDOW, AND CALLING VASQUEZ BY HIS FIRST NAME, GAVE HIM A

* KAN-TOO-AH - A WILD SHRUB



CANTUA CANYON

BLISTERING TONGUE-LASHING! TO COMPENSATE AND SAVE FACE WITH HIS AMUSED FOLLOWERS, IT IS SAID VASQUEZ HASTILY CONTRIVED A MORE DISTANT RAID AND ROBBERY

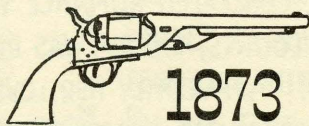
AFTER RECOVERING FROM HIS BATTLE WITH MARSHALL ROBERTS, VASQUEZ WAS STRONGLY PERSUADED BY HIS BROTHER, ONCE A MONTEREY JUSTICE OF PEACE, THAT HE SHOULD LEAVE THE COUNTRY FOR THE SAKE OF HIS FAMILY'S HONOR—AND HIS OWN PRESERVATION. VASQUEZ REALIZED THAT THE CHASE WAS GROWING HOT AND FINALLY AGREED. THE BROTHER ADDED \$500 TO HIS AMPLE STOLEN FUNDS, EXTRACTING A SOLEMN PROMISE FROM VASQUEZ THAT HE WOULD NEVER RETURN TO THIS STATE. SO WITH A COMPANION, PROCOPIO, VASQUEZ TOOK SHIP FOR MEXICO. THE FAMILY MUST HAVE BREATHED SIGHS OF

RELIEF. BUT WITHIN THREE MONTHS HE WAS BACK IN CANTUA CANYON! THE ONLY EXCUSE THAT VASQUEZ GAVE HIS BROTHER WAS HIS FEAR OF CONSCRIPTION INTO THE MEXICAN ARMY.

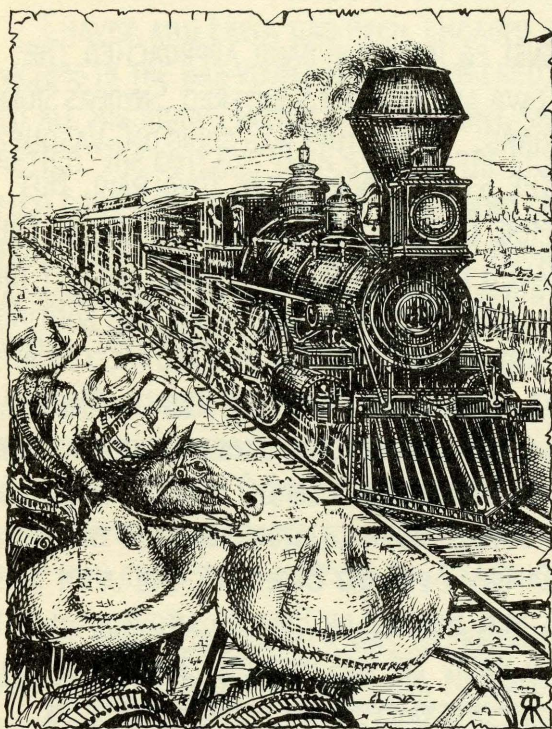
IN 1872, A TALENTED AND DARING HIGHWAYMAN, CLODOVIO CHAVEZ, TOOK REFUGE IN CANTUA CANYON, DESTINED TO BECOME VASQUEZ'S SECOND IN COMMAND AND TO RIDE WITH HIM FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, ACTUALLY TO THE DRAMA'S END. ABDÓN LEIVA*, A CHILEAN MINER, AND EARLY CANTUA CANYON SETTLER, WAS ALSO DRAFTED INTO THE BAND, BUT NOT WITHOUT COERCION. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT LEIVA WANTED TO BECOME AN OUTLAW BUT VASQUEZ WAS PERSUASIVE, POSSIBLY BECAUSE IT WOULD ALLOW HIM TO CARRY ON A PROGRESSING ROMANCE WITH LEIVA'S WIFE, ROSARIA.

LEIVA'S FIRST CONTRIBUTION WAS THE INFORMATION THAT HENRY MILLER, THE CATTLE BARON, WAS ABOUT TO ARRIVE AT FIREBAUGH'S FERRY ON THE SAN JOAQUÍN RIVER WITH A \$30,000 PAYROLL FOR HIS ARMY OF RANCH HANDS. EVIDENTLY MILLER HAD BEEN FOREWARNED, FOR HE FAILED TO

APPEAR. THE DISGRUNTLED VASQUEZ THEREUPON HELD UP THE PACHECO PASS STAGE, TIED AND ROBBED THE PASSENGERS AND THEN TURNED TO THE FIREBAUGH STORE. HERE THEY TIED UP AND ROBBED 12 MEN, LOOTED THE SAFE AND RODE OFF LOADED WITH FOOD AND MERCHANDISE.



VASQUEZ PLANNED THE MORE DARING OF HIS ADVENTURES IN 1873. FIRST HE SCHEMED TO DERAIL AND ROB THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC PAYROLL TRAIN TRAVELLING BETWEEN SAN JOSÉ AND G LROY, ACTUALLY AT THE TWENTY-ONE MILE HOUSE NEAR THE PRESENT MORGAN HILL. BUT THE SPIKES WERE STUBBORN AND THE RAILS WERE HEAVY. IT WAS A HOT DAY IN AUGUST AND A SHADY SIESTA WAS DEEMED IN ORDER WHILE THEY WERE THUS RELAXED THE TRAIN ROARED PAST. FURIOUS, AND TO COMPENSATE FOR HIS CHAGRIN, VASQUEZ TURNED TO THE LITTLE HOTEL.



THERE THE STARTLED CLERK, TWO RANCH HANDS, AND A TRAVELING SALESMAN WERE TIED UP AND ROBBED OF \$155 AND THEIR WATCHES. THE VICTIMS REPORTED THAT VASQUEZ HAD COOLED OFF SUFFICIENTLY TO OFFER BRIEF APOLOGIES.

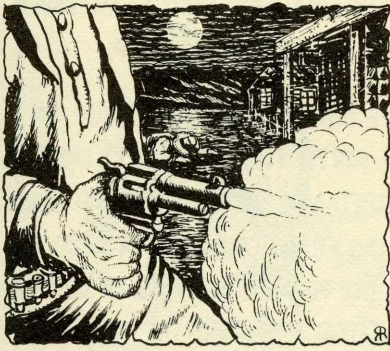
SAFELY BACK IN CANTUA CANYON, THE BANDIT LEADER FORMULATED PLANS FOR HIS LAST LOCAL ROBBERY. THE LAW WAS BECOMING INTIMATELY ACQUAINTED WITH VASQUEZ' AND HIS *MODUS OPERANDI*, AND HE FINALLY RESOLVED

TO MAKE A PERMANENT MOVE TO NEW FIELDS IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA HE PERSUADED LEIVA TO SELL HIS HOLDINGS IN THE CANYON FOR A MERE PITTANCE AND TO MOVE ROSAR A AND THE LEIVA CHILDREN TO THE RANCH OF LEIVA'S FORMER EMPLOYER, JIM HEFFNER, NEAR ELIZABETH LAKE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. THIS WAS DOUBTLESS A LONG-RANGE PLAN ON THE CHIEF'S PART SO THAT HIS STILL-CONCEALED ROMANCE WITH ROSARIA MIGHT BE CONTINUED (BY ALL ACCOUNTS, ROSARIA WAS DEFINITELY QUITE HOMELY AND DECEDLY ROTUND! APPARENTLY HER LOVE OF ADVENTURE AND HER FLEXIBLE AFFECTIONS OVERCAME THESE SLIGHT DETRACTIONS.)

NOW VASQUEZ MADE PLANS FOR HIS CROWNING EXPLOIT. SNYDER'S STORE AND HOTEL AT TRES PINOS WAS SELECTED AS THE TARGET.* IT WAS THE ONLY STORE SERVING A LARGE AREA AND A STAGE STOP ON THE RUN TO THE NEW IDRIA QUICKSILVER MINES. THERE WAS NO BANK. TRES PINOS WAS THEN ABOUT SIX MILES FROM HOLLISTER. (THE PLACE HAS SINCE BEEN RE-NAMED PAIC NES AND TRES PINOS "MOVED" NORTH TO MEET THE NEW RAILROAD.) VASQUEZ SELECTED CHAVEZ, ROMULO GONZALES, ABDON LEIVA AND TEODORO MORENO AS HIS COMPANIONS IN CRIME.

ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 26, 1873, THE BAND APPROACHED THE SETTLEMENT AND SPLIT UP. LEIVA AND GONZALES ENTERED SNYDER'S STORE AND ORDERED CIGARS AND DRINKS. WHILE THIS WAS GOING ON, VASQUEZ HAD INTENDED TO HOLD UP THE STAGE PRIOR TO THE TOWN RAID. BUT AGAIN HE RECOGNIZED A MINE OFFICIAL AS A PASSENGER AND SO THE MASKED BANDIT POLITELY WAVED IT ON. THIS STAGE HAD JUST LEFT THE STORE AND BY COAL-OIL LAMP, JOHN UTZERATH, THE CLERK, WAS SORTING THE MAIL. MORENO ENTERED AND DRAWING HIS GUN, ORDERED THE OCCUPANTS TO LINE UP AGAINST THE BAR. LEIVA AND GONZALES TIED UP ANDREW SNYDER, UTZERATH, A SMALL BOY AND SEVERAL OTHERS, ORDERING THEM TO LIE ON THE FLOOR. WHEN VASQUEZ AND CHAVEZ FINALLY JOINED THEM MORENO WAS STATIONED AS OUTSIDE GUARD. UNFORTUNATELY AT THIS POINT A BASQUE SHEEPHERDER NAMED BERNARD BERHURI CAME UPON THE SCENE. HE UNDERSTOOD NEITHER SPANISH OR ENGLISH AND PAID NO HEED TO THE BANDITS' COMMAND TO HALT. HE WAS PROMPTLY SHOT THROUGH

* (FOR THIS ACCOUNT WE DEPEND UPON A MAZE OF RECORDS, CONTEMPORARY WRITINGS AND DEPOSITIONS OF WITNESSES, SOME CONFLICTING AND MANY STILL NOT FIRMLY SUBSTANTIATED.)



THE HEAD. IT WAS NEVER DEFINITELY ESTABLISHED BY WHOM, ALTHOUGH MORENO WAS STRONGLY SUSPECTED.

THE SMALL BOY AT THIS MOMENT BROKE LOOSE AND RAN FOR THE CORRAL. CHAVEZ PURSUED HIM AND KNOCKED HIM SENSELESS WITH THE BUTT OF HIS PISTOL. BY THIS TIME A GEORGE REDFORD HAD

DRIVEN UP THE STREET WITH A WAGON LOAD OF REDWOOD PICKETS. REDFORD WAS TOTALLY DEAF. HE DISMOUNTED AND WALKED OVER TO THE FALLEN BERHURI. THE BANDITS SHOUTED AND WAVED TO HIM TO HALT. HE BECAME ALARMED AND STARTED TO RUN. A BULLET SENT HIM REELING; HE WAS KILLED BY A SECOND SHOT. LEANDER DAVIDSON, THE HOTEL PROPRIETOR, HEARING THE GUNFIRE, RUSHED INSIDE TO BOLT THE DOOR. IT WAS THEN THAT A BULLET, PRESUMABLY FROM VASQUEZ' RIFLE, PIERCED THE DOOR AND PENETRATED DAVIDSON'S CHEST. HE FELL INTO HIS WIFE'S ARMS, INSTANTLY KILLED.

CHAVEZ AND LEIVA HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN ROBBING THE PROSTRATE VICTIMS IN THE BAR-ROOM. VASQUEZ ENTERED, UNTIED SNYDER AND DEMAND-ED ALL HIS HIDDEN MONEY. AT GUNPOINT, SNYDER PRODUCED \$200 AND WAS RETIED. THE OUTLAWS THEN STRIPPED THE STORE OF SELECTED MERCHANDISE, FOOD, GUNS, AMMUNITION AND WHISKEY AND STOLE EIGHT OF SNYDER'S HORSES FROM THE STABLE TO CARRY OFF THEIR PLUNDER. DURING THE TUMULT, A MAN NAMED ZUMALT SLIPPED AWAY AND RAN A MARATHON RACE TO WARN THE TOWN OF HOLLISTER.

AND SO UNDER THE SAFETY OF DARKNESS AND WITH NO ONE OF A MIND TO PURSUE, THE HEAVILY LADEN BANDITS EASILY ESCAPED UP THE NARROW COURSE OF THE TRES PINOS CREEK. THEIR DARING RAID HAD YIELDED \$200 IN GOLD AND EIGHT HORSES LOADED WITH LOOT. THEY LEFT THREE DEAD MEN BEHIND AND WITH THEM TOOK FOREVER THE EXACT IDENTITY OF THE MURDERERS.

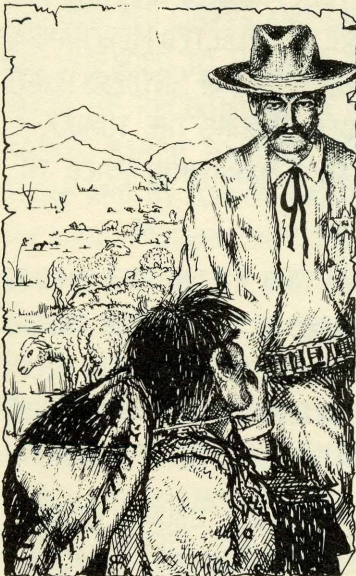
THE ENTIRE COASTAL AREA WAS SHOCKED AND OUTRAGED. TIBURCIO VASQUEZ HAD BECOME A TERRIFYING MENACE. NEWSPAPERS THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA HEADLINED THE TRES PINOS TRAGEDY, REPORTING THAT "VASQUEZ HAS

A DESPERATE BAND OF 50 MEN " COMMUNITIES IN ADJACENT COUNTIES PREPARED FOR HIS INVASION HOLLISTER WAS AN ARMED AND FORTIFIED CAMP.

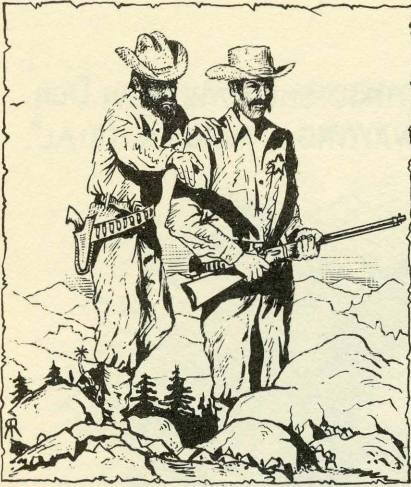
AT THE TIME OF THIS INCIDENT, SHERIFF ADAMS WAS IN GILROY ON ELECTION BUSINESS. ON BEING ALERTED, HE WIRED THE MONTEREY SHERIFF, JOHN WASSON, AND 15 MINUTES LATER BOARDED A DEPARTING FREIGHT TRAIN FOR HOLLISTER. HERE THE TWO SHERIFFS MET AND FRANTICALLY ENDEAVORED TO RECRUIT A POSSE. THEY HAD LITTLE SUCCESS. THE MAJORITY OF THE MALE POPULATION APPARENTLY PREFERRED TO REMAIN LOYAL MEMBERS OF THE HOME-GUARD. RACING AGAINST TIME, THE DESPERATE OFFICERS FINALLY ENLISTED FOUR MEN, BUT THEY WERE NOW A FULL DAY BEHIND THE BANDITS. THE WILY VASQUEZ, KNOWING THAT CANTUA CANYON WOULD BE HIGHLY SUSPECT, CIRCLED THIS AREA AND HEADED SOUTHWARD TOWARD TULARE LAKE. ALONG THE WAY, MORENO AND GONZALES VANISHED INTO DISGUISED HIDING.

SHERIFF ADAMS VAINLY SEARCHED THE DESERTED CANTUA CANYON, THEN DROPPED DOWN INTO THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AND FOR A DAY OR TWO BECAME COMPLETELY LOST IN THE UNFAMILIAR TULE WILDERNESS SURROUNDING TULARE LAKE. FINALLY HE FOUND TRACES OF THE BANDITS' FLIGHT AND STOPPED IN BAKERSFIELD WHERE HE ENGAGED TWO DEPUTIES. SHERIFF WASSON HAD TURNED BACK, AGAIN TO SEARCH CANTUA CANYON. ADAMS HAD NO DESCRIPTION OF, NOR

HAD HE EVER SEEN A MEMBER OF THE VASQUEZ GANG. CONSEQUENTLY WHEN HE STOPPED TO INTERROGATE A MEXICAN SHEEPHERDER IN A REMOTE AREA, HE UNKNOWINGLY WAS FACING MORENO! THE VALUE OF THE INFORMATION HE RECEIVED CAN BE IMAGINED. BUT HE AGAIN PICKED UP THE COLD TRAIL, FINALLY WIRING TO SHERIFF ROWLAND OF LOS ANGELES FOR A D. ROWLAND RESPONDED WITH SIX MEN AND FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS THEY FOLLOWED WAGON TRACKS AND CHECKED REMAINS OF CAMPFIRES. THEY FINALLY FOUND HIDDEN THE EIGHT HORSES STOLEN AT SNYDER'S, AND VASQUEZ, DEFIANT ON HIS WHITE HORSE WAS SIGHTED ON A DISTANT



WAS HE BANDIT OR SHEEPHERDER?



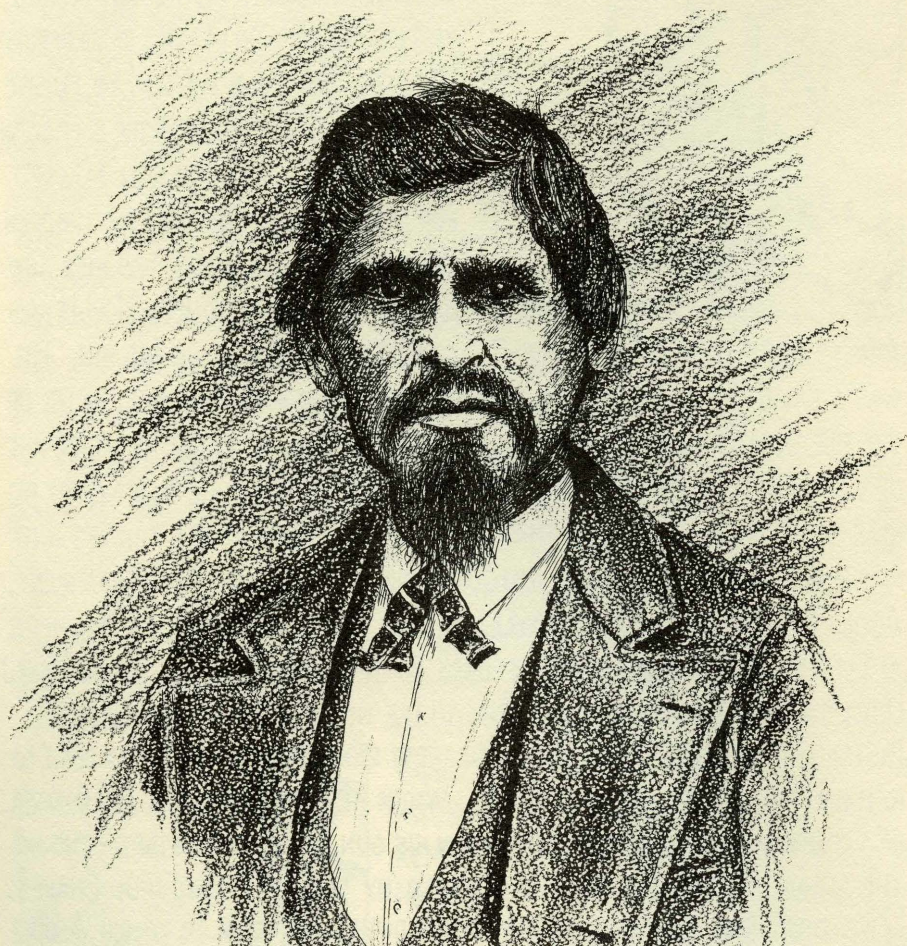
VASQUEZ WAS ELUSIVE AS QUICKSILVER

HILL THE POSSE CLOSED IN AND A LONG DISTANCE R FLE BATTLE FOLLOWED. THE FEARLESS SHERIFF ADAMS DAR NGLY INSISTED ON CHARGING, ALONE, DOWN A LONG PRECIPITOUS CANYON IN HOPE OF CORNERING VASQUEZ. BUT AGAIN THE OUTLAW, ELUSIVE AS QUICKSILVER, VANISHED IN THE DEEP BRUSH.

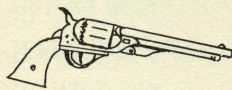
SUFFICIENT TIME HAD NOW ELAPSED FOR LEIVA TO REACH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AT HEFFNER'S RANCH WHERE VASQUEZ AND CHAVEZ SOON JOINED THEM. NOW LEIVA'S CONSCIENCE BEGAN TO TROUBLE HIM. HE WAS A FAMILY MAN AND HAD NO STOMACH FOR DEEDS OF VIOLENCE. WHAT OF THE BLEAK FUTURE? WHAT OF HIS CHILDREN? AND AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT HE HAD FINALLY NOTICED THE CONSTANT EFFORT OF VASQUEZ ALWAYS TO BE NEAR HIS ROSARIA. IT IS SAID THAT THERE IS NO HONOR AMONG THIEVES AND NOW LEIVA, ACTUATED BY BOTH JEALOUSY AND REVENGE WAS TO PROVE A POINT. AS HIS WEAPON, HE CHOSE BETRAYAL. AT LAST, WHILE ALL WERE CAMPED HERE AT LITTLE ROCK CANYON CAME A CL MAX TO THIS SORDID DRAMA. VASQUEZ ASKED LEIVA TO TAKE THE WAGON AND DRIVE TO THE NEAREST TOWN FOR SUPPL ES. INSTEAD, LEIVA DROVE ONLY TO THE NEAREST RANCHHOUSE, MAKING IT A POINT TO RETURN TWO HOURS AHEAD OF TIME. WHEN HE FOUND VASQUEZ AND ROSARIA IN A COMPROMISING SITUATION, LEIVA DREW HIS GUN, INTENT ON INSTANTLY ENDING THE AFFA R. BUT HE N TURN WAS COVERED BY THE EVER WATCHFUL CHAVEZ. LEIVA THEREUPON PROPOSED AN IMMEDIATE DUEL, A PROPOSAL TO WHICH VASQUEZ MADE A RATHER SURPRISING REPLY! HE FULLY ADMITTED HIS GUILT AND REFUSED "TO FIGHT A FRIEND HE HAD WRONGED". VASQUEZ SUGGESTED THAT THEY GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS AND WHEN THEY MET AGAIN IT WOULD BE A MATTER OF SELF DEFENSE. IT WAS THEN THAT LEIVA ANNOUNCED HIS PERMANENT WITHDRAWAL FROM THE BANDIT GANG.

VASQUEZ DID NOT SUSPECT THAT LEIVA WAS BENT ON IMMEDIATE BETRAYAL. IN FACT, LEIVA RODE DIRECTLY TO THE LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND SURRENDERED. AT ONCE SHERIFF ADAMS RODE IN AND FROM LE VA, OBTAINED THE

" . . . LOOKED MORE LIKE A DISTINGUISHED MEXICAN DON
THAN A BANDIT AWAITING A MURDER TRIAL."



Vasquez Tiburcio



TIBURCIO VASQUEZ
MASTER-AT-CRIME

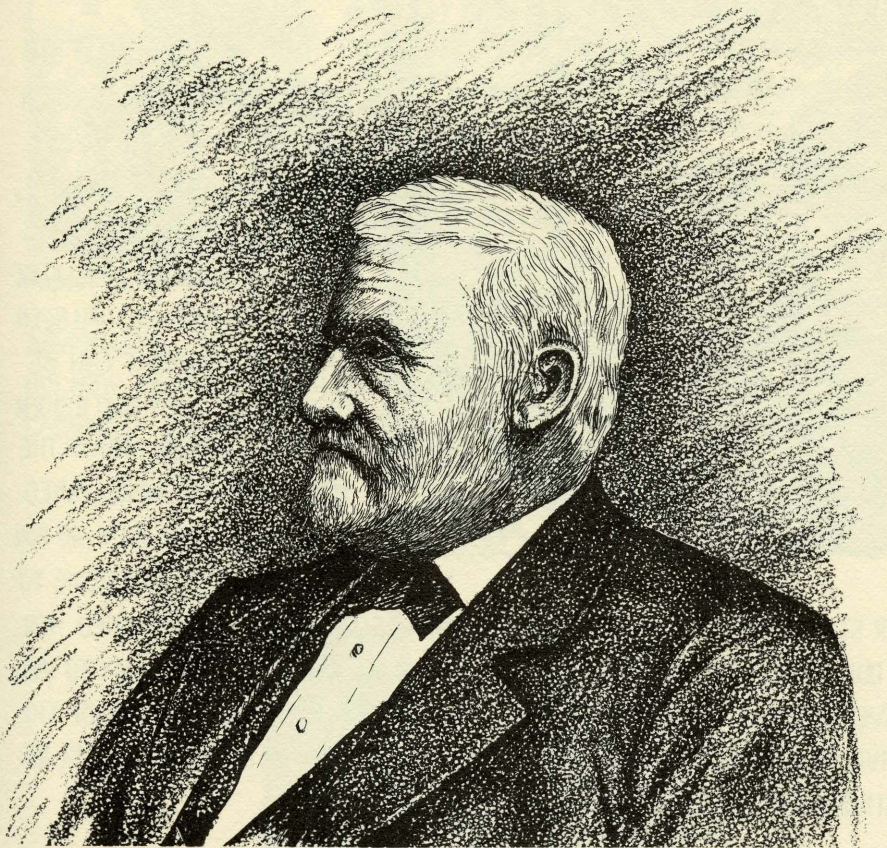
POLITE—MYSTERIOUS—ELUSIVE
LUSTFUL—RUTHLESS—DEADLY.

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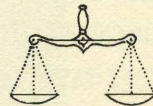
PENCIL DRAWING FROM PHOTO
TAKEN IN SAN JOSÉ JAIL

“

. UNTIL YOU ARE DEAD! AND MAY THE LORD
HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SOUL.”



*Yours Truly
D. Belden*



JUDGE DAVID BELDEN
MASTER-AT-LAW

PRESIDED AT THIS MOST FAMOUS
CRIMINAL TRIAL IN THE LEGAL
HISTORY OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY.

R

PENCIL DRAWING FROM ENG. IN
H.S. FOOTE'S HIST. OF S.C. VALLEY.



MANHUNT

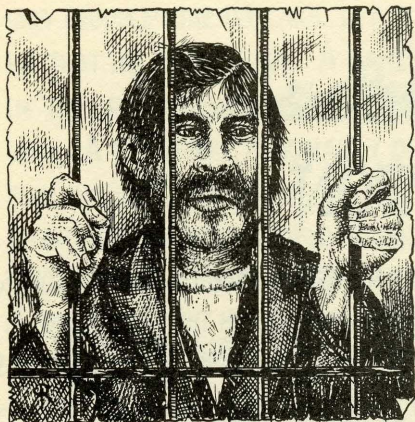
HER STORY, ROSARIA BECAME PREGNANT AND VASQUEZ TOTALLY ABANDONED HER. IN DUE COURSE AND IN SOME UNEXPLAINED MANNER, SHE MADE HER WAY TO RELATIVES IN SAN JOSÉ. IN NO ACCOUNT CAN WE FIND FURTHER MENTION OF THE LEIVA CHILDREN. WE CAN HOPE THEY WERE CARED FOR BY RELATIVES OR BY NATIVE CALIFORNIOS, TYPICALLY KIND-HEARTED.

MEANWHILE, ACTING ON SHERIFF ADAMS' ADVICE, SHERIFF WASSON ARRESTED MORENO AND ADAMS RETURNED HIM TO SAN JOSÉ WHERE HE WAS INDICTED FOR THE MURDER OF BERNAL BERHUR DURING THE SNYDER STORE ROBBERY. TRIED BEFORE JUDGE BELDEN IN 1873, HE WAS GIVEN LIFE IMPRISONMENT. ABDÓN LEIVA WAS THE PRINCIPAL WITNESS. THE BETRAYED BETRAYER WAS AT LAST ENJOYING THE SWEET TASTE OF REVENGE.

BUT SUCH A TRAITOR'S LIFE WAS IN CONSTANT JEOPARDY AND FOR SAFETY, HE WAS CONFINED IN THE SAN JOSÉ JAIL. THROUGH HIS GRAPEVINE, VASQUEZ AS USUAL, WAS KEPT WELL INFORMED OF ALL EVENTS AND HE SAW IN LEIVA A MORTAL HINDRANCE TO HIS FUTURE. LEIVA MUST BE ELIMINATED!

EXACT LOCATION OF VASQUEZ' HIDING PLACE AS WELL AS WHERE MORENO, THE "SHEEPHERDER," WAS TO BE FOUND

THE SHERIFF THEN LEFT TO PICK UP ROSARIA AND CHILDREN AND BRING THEM TO SAFETY. HE WAS TOO LATE! VASQUEZ, THE RENEGADE ROMEO, HAD "ABDUCTED" ROSARIA! HER LATER ASSERTIONS THAT SHE HAD BEEN TAKEN AT GUNPOINT CAN BE DISCOUNTED. THEY HAD RIDDEN OFF INTO A WILDER AREA IN THE MOUNTAINS AND WERE JOINED BY CHAVEZ. HERE THEY HID FOR SOME MONTHS. ACCORDING TO



ABDÓN LEIVA — THE BETRAYED BETRAYER

AS EXECUTIONER, VASQUEZ UNWISELY CHOSE A NEW AND NOT VERY BRIGHT RECRUIT, BLAS BECUÑA. BECUÑA WAS CAREFULLY COACHED FOR HIS TRIP TO SAN JOSÉ AND IN PARTICULAR, HOW TO CONNIVE WITH THE PROPER CONTACTS SO AS TO SMUGGLE A BOTTLE OF POISONED WINE INTO LEIVA'S CELL. BUT THE DOLT WEAKENED AT THE LAST MOMENT, LEIVA REMAINED AN IMPRISONED MENACE AND VASQUEZ TURNED TO THE DIVERSION OF FRESH ADVENTURE. IN CANTUA CANYON HE REASSEMBLED HIS GANG, ADDING HIS NEW RECRUITS, PADILLA, GOMEZ, BLAS BECUÑA AND MONTERES AND CAREFULLY PLANNED HIS NEXT INVASION.



GATEWAY INTO CANTUA CANYON



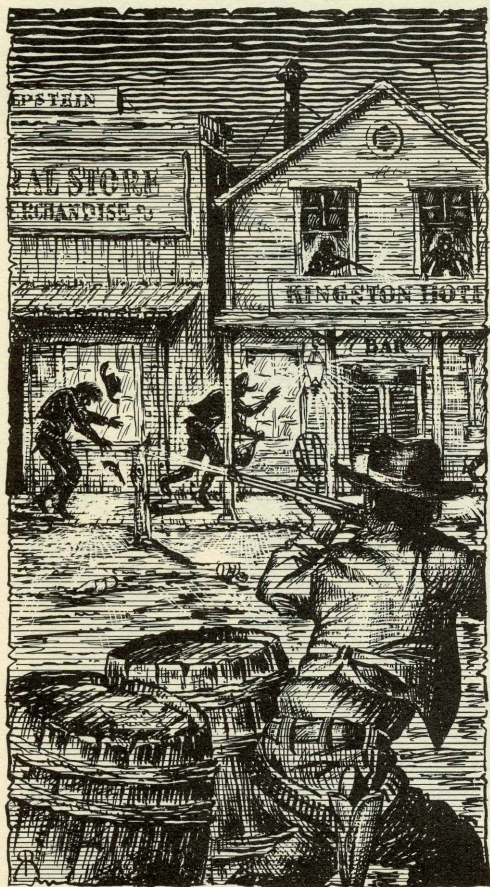
KINGSTON

KINGSTON WAS A SNUG, PROSPEROUS LITTLE COMMUNITY OF THREE STORES, A SALOON, STABLE AND A TOLL-BRIDGE CROSSING ON THE KINGS RIVER. IT WAS EIGHT MILES NORTH OF HANFORD ON A STAGE LINE. NOTHING REMAINS TO MARK THE SPOT ON A LONELY DIRT ROAD BUT TWO AGED, BLACK-WALNUT TREES THAT ONCE SHADED THE CORRAL.

BUT ON THE NIGHT AFTER CHRISTMAS, 1873, THE VILLAGE PROSPECTS WERE NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE SEASON. HERE WAS TO BE ENACTED AN EPISODE NOW FAMILIAR

TO US ALL—THANKS TO HOLLYWOOD. HERE WAS TO BE THE PROTOTYPE OF THE TYPICAL WESTERN STREET BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD CITIZENS AND BAD BANDITS; A CLASSIC PATTERN FOR THE TV FUTURE—THE NIGHT VASQUEZ SACKED KINGSTON!

UNDER WINTRY DARKNESS, VASQUEZ AND HIS NINE MEN TIED THEIR HORSES IN THE RIVERBANK WILLOWS AND CREPT ACROSS THE BRIDGE INTO THE DROWSY VILLAGE. DELEGATED TO SEPARATE BUILDINGS, THE GROUP IN TEN MINUTES TIED UP AND ROBBED 30 MEN, KNOCKING SEVERAL UNCONSCIOUS. MIRACULOUSLY NO ONE WAS KILLED. ONE SAFE, THAT OF JACOB & EPSTEIN'S GENERAL STORE, YIELDED \$600. A MR. O. H. BLISS, OWNER OF THE TOLL-BRIDGE, SADLY EXPLAINED THAT BUSINESS HAD BEEN POOR THAT DAY. HE COULD



THEN MR. SUTHERLAND, WITH HIS HENRY RIFLE..

ONLY PRODUCE NINE DOLLARS. LYING TIED ON THE FLOOR, HE PLAINTIVELY COMPLAINED THAT HIS HEAD HURT. A BANDIT TUCKED A BLANKET UNDER IT! OUT IN THE STABLE-YARD, THREE CITIZENS WERE ORDERED TO LIE DOWN AND BE TIED. A MR. WOOD, DEBONAIRLY DRESSED, COMPLAINED BITTERLY THAT IT WOULD RUIN HIS SUIT. HE WAS ESCORTED TO THE HOTEL AND ALLOWED TO RECLINE ON THE FLOOR. OTHER VICTIMS YIELDED VARYING AMOUNTS, FROM 50¢ TO \$400, AND EVERY GOLD WATCH IN TOWN BECAME A COLLECTOR'S ITEM FOR SOME BANDIT.

ENTER THE TRUE CITIZEN HERO, J.W. SUTHERLAND, THE SHARP-SHOOTER WITH HIS HENRY RIFLE! HE SPREAD THE ALARM AND SOON FROM THE UPPER WINDOWS AND ROOFS THE RIFLES OF THE OTHER TOWNSMEN BLASTED INTO THE DARKNESS. THE BANDITS GATHERED AND FLED BUT NOT BEFORE MR SUTHERLAND HAD WINGED CHAVEZ AND MONTERES AS THEY DASHED DOWN THE STREET. MONTERES HID IN THE WILLOWS BUT WAS CAPTURED AND REFLECTED ON THE EVENING FOR THE NEXT 14 YEARS (IN SAN QUENTIN). OTHERWISE THE OUTLAWS HANDILY ESCAPED WITH \$2500 IN COIN AND A RICH HAUL OF JEWELRY AND WATCHES. EIGHT MILES AWAY THEY STOPPED AT A MEXICAN'S ADOBE AND CHAVEZ' WOUND WAS DRESSED. WITH NO IMMEDIATE PURSUIT IN PROSPECT, THIS EARLY-DAY BAND OF ROAD AGENTS LEISURELY RODE THE NEXT DAY TO TULARE LAKE, DIVIDED THE BOOTY, SPLIT IN PAIRS AND DISPERSED. VASQUEZ RETIRED TO THE WILD LITTLE SETTLEMENT OF PANAMA NEAR BAKERSFIELD WHERE FOR A FEW DAYS HE RIOTIOUSLY CELEBRATED WITH CANTINA FRIENDS OF BOTH SEXES.



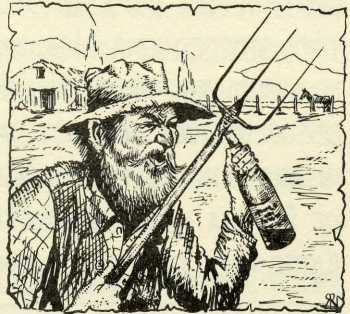
HE GLORIED IN NOTORIETY

AN EARLY BIOGRAPHER HERE RELATES ANOTHER UNVERIFIED BUT TYPICAL VASQUEZ ESCAPE. A PURSUING POSSE FINALLY LEARNED THAT VASQUEZ COULD BE FOUND IN PANAMA AND THUNDERED INTO TOWN. ONE OF HIS LADY FRIENDS WARNED HIM AND VASQUEZ, DISGUISED IN HER SKIRT AND MANTILLA, DASHED ACROSS THE STREET DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE POSSE, LEAPED UPON HIS HORSE AND DISAPPEARED IN THE NIGHT.



VASQUEZ WAS NO LONGER A SMALL-TIME OUTLAW HERE WAS A CAREER TO RIVAL ANY OR ALL OF THE JOAQUINS. HE HAD AROUSED ATTENTION AND IRE OF THE ENTIRE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. ON JANUARY 24, 1874, GOVERNOR NEWTON BOOTH RAISED THE REWARDS FOR HIS CAPTURE TO \$3000 ALIVE OR \$2000 DEAD. TO THAT EFFECT LURID POSTERS COVERED SANTA CLARA, MONTEREY AND SAN BENITO COUNTIES. VASQUEZ GAVE LITTLE HEED; MORE LIKELY AS WAS HIS NATURE, HE GLORIED IN HIS ASCENDENCY TO HEADLINE NOTORIETY.

THE NEXT MONTH, ON FEBRUARY 25TH., AT THE COYOTE WELLS STAGE STATION BETWEEN LOS ANGELES AND OWENS RIVER, CHAVEZ HELD HIS RIFLE ON THE STATION'S OCCUPANTS WHILE VASQUEZ METHODICALLY AND POLITELY ROBBED THE WOULD-BE PASSENGERS. THE BANDITS THEN LAY IN WAIT FOR THE INCOMING STAGE; IT WAS CARRYING THE WELLS FARGO STRONG-BOX. DURING THIS INTERVAL, ONLY ONE AGED CHARACTER ROSE TO THE OCCASION — "OLD TEX," THE ROARING DRUNK STABLEMAN WILDLY BRANDISHING A PITCHFORK, HE LOUDLY CHALLENGED VASQUEZ TO FIGHT! THE AMUSED VASQUEZ CAREFULLY SHOT HIM THROUGH THE LEG. THE OVER-DUE STAGE FINALLY RUMBLED IN TO BE MET BY AIMED RIFLES. THE INCOMING PASSENGERS WERE LINED UP AND ROUTINELY ROBBED. VASQUEZ' EVER-SEARCHING



EYE SOON SPOTTED A YOUNG LADY'S PAIR OF NEW KID-GLOVES WHICH HE DEMANDED. WHEN THE GIRL BURST INTO TEARS HE ASKED THEIR PRICE. SHE TOLD HIM THEY COST TWO DOLLARS. VASQUEZ QUICKLY HANDED HER A LARGE GOLD PIECE!



BUT WHEN THE GIRL BURST INTO TEARS,

THE LOCK OF THE WELLS-FARGO STRONG BOX WAS SHOT AWAY BUT THE BOX CONTAINED ONLY \$0,000 IN MINING-STOCK CERTIFICATES. ANGRILY, VASQUEZ SCATTERED THEM TO THE WIND.

THE STAGECOACH HORSES WERE UNHITCHED AND THEY AND ALL THE STABLE HORSES WERE TURNED LOOSE TO THWART FORMATION OF A POSSE. THE HOLDUP HAD PRODUCED \$200 IN COIN AND THE USUAL JEWELRY BOOTY.

THIS WAS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST DARING ROBBERIES IN VASQUEZ' CAREER. IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, ON A WELL TRAVELLED ROAD, TWO LONE DESPERADOS HAD ROBBED 20 MEN AND CASUALLY ESCAPED! THIS, KINGSTON, AND THE SNYDER STORE INCIDENT WERE NOT HASTILY FORGOTTEN. VASQUEZ WAS KNOWN AS "KING OF ALL RUTHLESS BANDITS", A POTENTIAL KILLER WITH A "NERVOUS TRIGGER-FINGER."

IN LAWFUL CONTRAST, SHERIFF HARRY MORSE OF ALAMEDA COUNTY WAS CONSIDERED THE FOREMOST MANHUNTER IN CALIFORNIA. HIS RECORD FOR TRACKING DOWN NOTORIOUS AND PARTICULARLY ELUSIVE OUTLAWS SHOWED A LONG LIST OF CALIFORNIA DESPERADOS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. HIS FAMOUS BATTLE WITH JUAN SOTO, THE BRIGAND TERRORIST, HAD ESTABLISHED HIM AS AN OFFICER WITHOUT FEAR. CONSEQUENTLY HE WAS CHOSEN TO CONFER WITH GOVERNOR NEWTON BOOTH IN JANUARY, 1874, EVEN PRIOR TO THE COVOTE WELLS ROBBERY, REGARDING AN EXPEDITION TO CAPTURE VASQUEZ. THE LEGISLATURE APPROPRIATED \$15,000 AS AN EXPENSE FUND AND LATER THE REWARDS WERE RAISED TO \$8000 ALIVE OR \$6,000 DEAD. MORSE CAREFULLY SELECTED A DISTINGUISHED POSSE OF LAWMEN INCLUDING COUNTY SHERIFFS AND SEASONED OFFICERS.

SO STARTED ON MARCH 2, 1874, A 61-DAY MANHUNT INTO ONE OF THE WILDEST UNINHABITED REGION IN ALL OF CALIFORNIA. IT WAS DESTINED TO TEMPORARY FAILURE DESPITE HEROIC AND TIRELESS CONTRIBUTION FROM SHERIFF MORSE. NEVERTHELESS FULL



FRIEND OR FOE ?

CREDIT CAN BE AWARDED THIS OFFICER FOR A DISCLOSURE THAT ULTIMATELY LED TO THE FINAL DENOUEMENT.

AT THIS TIME VASQUEZ WAS HING IN THE HOME OF GEORGE ALLEN, ALIAS GREEK GEORGE, ON THE LA BREA RANCH, EIGHT MILES NORTH OF LOS ANGELES AT THE MOUTH OF LAUREL CANYON.* GEORGE ALLEN WAS A SYRIAN, AT ONE TIME EMPLOYED AS A CAMEL DRIVER WHEN THE U. S. GOVERNMENT WAS EXPERIMENTING WITH THESE ANIMALS AS MAIL AND EXPRESS CARRIERS ACROSS THE MOJAVE DESERT (1861-3).

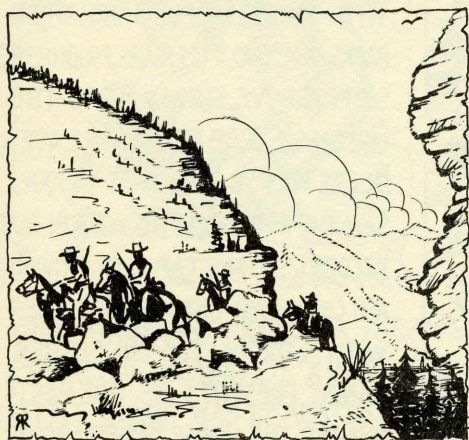
WITH VASQUEZ WAS A YOUTHFUL AND AMBITIOUS BANDIT NAMED LEBRADO CORONA. THE LAD WORSHIPPED THE BANDIT LEADER JUST AS VASQUEZ HAD ONCE SAT AT THE FEET OF ANASTACIO GARCIA. THIS ENTHUSIASTIC RECRUIT WAS DULY INITIATED BY THE VETERANS, VASQUEZ AND CHAVEZ, IN THEIR ROBBERY OF ALEXANDER REPETTO, A WEALTHY ITALIAN SHEEPMAN. ON APRIL 2, 1874, THEY LEARNED THAT REPETTO HAD RECEIVED A LARGE PAYMENT FOR A WOOL SHIPMENT, AND POSING AS SHEEPSHEARERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, THEY GAINED ENTRANCE TO HIS HOME NEAR SAN GABRIEL MISSION. THOUGH HE WAS SUITABLY THREATENED, REPETTO PROVED TO VASQUEZ'S SATISFACTION THAT HE HAD ONLY \$81 IN THE HOUSE. VASQUEZ THEN EMPLOYED HIS STANDARD PROCEDURE; REGRETTABLY, HE WAS IN DESPERATE NEED OF AN "IMMEDIATE AND SIZEABLE LOAN, ETC.," AND AFTER TYING REPETTO TO A PEPPER-TREE, "SUGGESTED" THAT HE SEND HIS NEPHEW TO THE BANK TO CASH A CHECK FOR \$800.

THE FRIGHTENED YOUNG NEPHEW WAS SENT TO THE TEMPLE & WORKMAN BANK IN LOS ANGELES. THOUGH STERNLY WARNED NOT TO AROUSE AN ALARM, HE WAS IN SUCH A PITIFUL STATE OF NERVES WHEN HE CASHED THE LARGE CHECK THAT THE BANK'S SUSPICIONS WERE AROUSED. CLOSELY QUESTIONED BY JOHN TEMPLE, THE PRESIDENT, THE LAD FINALLY BROKE DOWN AND WITHIN AN HOUR HIGH SHERIFF WILLIAM R. ROWLAND WAS ON THE ROAD WITH A POSSE. BUT THE WARY VASQUEZ HAD POSTED CORONA ON WATCH AND HIS WARNING OF THE APPROACHING LAW PERMITTED ANOTHER NARROW ESCAPE. NEVER ALLOWING AN OPPORTUNITY TO PASS, THESE ASTOUNDING OUTLAWS PAUSED IN THEIR FLIGHT TO ROB THREE TRAVELERS BEFORE THEIR RETURN TO GREEK GEORGE'S! THE DELAY, HOWEVER, ALLOWED ROWLAND'S POSSE TO CATCH UP AND AT LEAST GET A FLEETING GLIMPSE OF THE PHANTOM BANDIT ON HIS WHITE HORSE WITH \$800 RANSOM MONEY IN HIS POCKET.

WHILE THESE EVENTS WERE TAKING PLACE, MORSE WAS ON A MASSIVE MAN-HUNT COMBING THE TEHACHAPI MOUNTAINS. NEAR FORT TEJON HE MET A

* GREEK GEORGE'S PLACE STOOD NEAR THE PRESENT INTERSECTION OF KING'S ROAD AND FOUNTAIN AVENUE IN HOLLYWOOD!

FORMER MEXICAN GUIDE OF VASQUEZ AND, VIA A LIBERAL BRIBE, EXTRACTED THE DEFINITE LOCATION OF THE OUTLAW'S LATEST HIDING PLACE (GREEK GEORGE'S). FEELING THAT THE NOOSE WAS BEGINNING TO TIGHTEN, MORSE IMMEDIATELY TOOK STAGE FOR LOS ANGELES. HE REALIZED THAT HE WAS IN SHERIFF ROWLAND'S TERRITORY AND WHEN THEY MET, HE DIPLOMATICALLY URGED THAT THEY FORM A JOINT POSSE AND SURROUND THE LAIR OF GREEK GEORGE. ROWLAND BLUNTLY TOLD HIM THAT HE KNEW THE MEXICAN GUIDE, HAD NO FAITH IN HIS STORY AND ADDED THAT



.. 47 MILES A DAY - FOR 60 DAYS

HE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED ALL THIS INFORMATION! MORSE WAS APPARENTLY CONVINCED. HE WAS BOTH DISCOURAGED BY ROWLAND'S TERSE REACTION AND EXHAUSTED FROM THE 60 CONTINUOUS DAYS IN THE SADDLE DURING WHICH HE RODE AN AVERAGE OF 47 MILES A DAY OVER SOME OF THE ROUGHEST COUNTRY IN CALIFORNIA. THUS DISHEARTENED, HE TURNED NORTHWARD, AND HIS ROLE IN THE GREAT HUNT WAS ENDED.

AT THIS POINT A CURIOUS QUESTION

ARISES. SHERIFF ROWLAND HAD FIRMLY DISCOUNTED THE INFORMATION MORSE HAD GIVEN HIM REGARDING VASQUEZ' ACTUAL HIDING PLACE. WHY THEN, TEN DAYS AFTER MORSE WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF THE TERRITORY, DID SHERIFF ROWLAND ORGANIZE THE POSSE THAT WAS TO MAKE THE FINAL CAPTURE AT THE GREEK GEORGE HIDEOUT? HAD SHERIFF MORSE ACTED PROMPTLY AND INDEPENDENTLY, HE MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN THE SUCCESSFUL CAPTOR. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT AS SOON AS VASQUEZ WAS SECURELY IMPRISONED, SHERIFF ROWLAND RECEIVED A CHECK FOR \$ 8000 FROM THE STATE TREASURER!

IN ANY EVENT, ON MAY 13, 1874 AT DUSK, UNDER-SHERIFF JOHNSON OF LOS ANGELES WITH THE FAMOUS DETECTIVE, EMIL HARRIS, LED A POSSE OF SIX MEN INTO LAUREL CANYON LEADING TO THE LA BREA RANCH ABOUT A MILE FROM GREEK GEORGES.*

THEY PAUSED AND HID NEAR THE RANCH OF MAJOR MITCHELL UNTIL THE NEXT DAY (AS THERE WAS A DENSE FOG). WHEN A MAN WAS SEEN RIDING AWAY ON A WHITE HORSE TWO DEPUTIES PURSUED HIM. IT WAS PROBABLY CHAVEZ, NOT VASQUEZ. LONG HOURS PASSED AND FINALLY TWO MEXICAN WOODCUTTERS

* GEORGE BEERS JOINED THE POSSE AS A SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE REPORTER. HIS EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE CAPTURE WAS USED AS REFERENCE.



ENTERED THE CANYON DRIVING A HIGH-SIDED EMPTY WOOD-WAGON. AS THIS WAS THE WOODCUTTERS' REGULAR HABIT, THE POSSE GRASPED THE OPPORTUNITY AND PACKED THEMSELVES FLAT "LIKE SARDINES" INTO THE WAGON-BED, OUT OF SIGHT. WITH SHOTGUNS PUNCHING THEIR BACKS, THE TWO MEXICANS, FRIGHTENED STIFF, DROVE SLOWLY UP TO THE GREEK GEORGE HOUSE. (LATER, BEERS WAS TO FIND THAT VASQUEZ SAW THE APPROACHING WAGON BUT RECOGNIZED THE FAMILIAR DRIVERS AND CONTINUED EATING HIS DINNER WITH CORONA, THE ONLY OTHER BANDIT PRESENT.) AS THE PARTY NEARED THE HOUSE, MODESTA LOPEZ*, SISTER-IN-LAW OF GREEK GEORGE, CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF A DISMOUNTING DEPUTY AND SCREAMED AN ALARM.

WITH THAT, THE POSSE BROKE INTO THE HOUSE AND VASQUEZ, LIKE A WILD ANIMAL, CRASHED THROUGH AN 18-INCH WINDOW. HE RAN FOR HIS TETHERED HORSE AS GEORGE BEERS FIRED AT HIM WITH HIS PISTOL. WOUNDED, THE UNARMED VASQUEZ THREW UP HIS HANDS CRYING, "NO SHOOT, NO SHOOT!" JUST AS A DEPUTY GAVE HIM A CHARGE OF BUCKSHOT. THE GREAT CHASE WAS OVER!

BEER'S SHOT HAD PENETRATED VASQUEZ' SHOULDER AND HE HAD BEEN STRUCK BY SIX BUCKSHOT. NONE OF THE SHOTS WAS FATAL AND HE REMAINED STANDING, THE CALMEST ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS. BEERS, THE ON-THE-SCENE REPORTER, WROTE THAT DESPITE POPULAR DOUBTS AS TO VASQUEZ' REAL COURAGE WHEN CORNERED, THE BANDIT IN THESE HECTIC MOMENTS, DISPLAYED AN "ASTONISHING SELF-POSSESSION AND COMMAND OF NERVE." AS BEERS ADMINISTERED FIRST-AID, VASQUEZ SAID, "YOU GOOD MAN! YOU DRESS MY WOUNDS

* ONE REASON VASQUEZ HID AT GREEK GEORGE'S—A FORMER SWEETHEART LIVED THERE



AND THE GREAT CHASE WAS OVER!

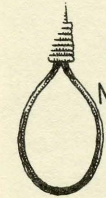
AND NURSE ME GOOD, YOU BOYS GET \$8000! IF YOU LET ME DIE, YOU ONLY GET SIX. YOU GET \$2000 FOR JUST BEING KND!"

VASQUEZ WAS CAREFULLY PLACED ON A MATTRESS IN A SPRINGWAGON AND TOGETHER WITH CORONA WAS SLOWLY CONVEYED TO LOS ANGELES. (IN THE EXCITEMENT, THE COWED CORONA ENDEAVORED TO MAKE A SNEAK ESCAPE BUT WAS CAPTURED.) THE NEWS QUICKLY SPREAD. HUNDREDS GATHERED AT THE JAIL TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE FAMOUS OUTLAW. ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY WERE MEXICANS, AT NO TIME

WERE THERE ANY MOVES OR THREATS OF MOB VIOLENCE. IN JAIL, A DR. WISE EXTRACTED THE BULLETS AND DRESSED THE WOUNDS. IN TEN DAYS THE TOUGH LITTLE BANDIT WAS READY TO TRAVEL. DURING THIS PERIOD IN LOS ANGELES HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY A NUMBER OF REPORTERS. VASQUEZ APPARENTLY ENJOYED THIS INTERLUDE AND BASKED IN THE EXCITEMENT HE HAD UNWITTINGLY CREATED. WHILE RECUPERATING IN THIS JAIL AND AT EVERY LATER OPPORTUNITY, HE STOUTLY INSISTED THAT IN ALL HIS CAREER HE HAD NEVER COMMITTED A MURDER. MEANWHILE CORONA WAS QUICKLY TRIED IN LOS ANGELES FOR THE REPETTO INCIDENT AND HE WAS SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS IN SAN QUENTIN.

ON MAY 23 1874, VASQUEZ WAS TAKEN ABOARD THE STEAMSHIP SENATOR BOUND FOR SAN FRANCISCO. FROM THERE HE WAS REMOVED TO SALINAS WHERE HE WAS INDICTED FOR THE MURDER OF LEANDER DAVIDSON DURING THE SNYDER STORE EPISODE. THE CRIME OCCURRED IN WHAT IS NOW SAN BENITO COUNTY, WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS BEING CREATED BY A DIVISION OF MONTEREY COUNTY, THIS ACCOUNTING FOR HIS APPEARANCE IN SALINAS. THERE WAS NO JAIL READY IN THIS NEW COUNTY AND WITH THE PREJUDICE FACTOR INVOLVED; A CHANGE OF VENUE BROUGHT HIS TRANSFER TO THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY COURTS. TRIAL WAS SET FOR JANUARY, 1875. FINALLY HE WAS SHERIFF ADAM'S PRISONER AND THEY BECAME WELL ACQUAINTED DURING THE FOLLOWING MONTHS OF LONG LEGAL DELAYS.

Crime and Punishment



ON MAY 27TH., SHERIFF ADAMS RETURNED VASQUEZ BY TRAIN TO THE JAIL IN SAN JOSÉ. AT EVERY STATION STOP GREAT CROWDS STRAINED FOR A LOOK AT THIS NOTORIOUS BANDIT. A CONTEMPORARY WRITER OF THAT SENSATIONAL PERIOD REACHED FOR THE OLD CLICHE AND WROTE, "FOR THE LONG MONTHS OF HIS INCARCERATION, THE BROODING OUTLAW LANGUISHED IN HIS CELL" QUITE TO THE CONTRARY! HE HAD HUNDREDS OF VISITORS, MOSTLY WOMEN, WHO BROUGHT HIM FLOWERS, WINE AND FOOD. HE WAS COURTEOUS AND PLEASANT TO THEM ALL; SOME VENTURED TO SAY HE WAS CHARMING HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY SCORES OF REPORTERS, AMONG THEM THE TWO SAN JOSÉ HISTORIOGRAPHERS, EUGENE T. SAWYER AND H. S. FOOTE, WHOSE ACCOUNTS ARE SO VALUABLE IN RECONSTRUCTING THE VASQUEZ STORY. VASQUEZ POSED TWICE FOR HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT, ONE OF WHICH HE USED ON THE COVER OF A SOUVENIR CARD TO WHICH HE ADDED A SHORT BIOGRAPHY. HE SOLD THESE TO ANYONE AND GRACIOUSLY INCLUDED HIS AUTOGRAPH INSCRIBED WITH HIS FLOURISHING SIGNATURE. VASQUEZ HAD ALWAYS BEEN A NEAT DRESSER BUT WITH THE ATTENTION AND OPPORTUNITY HERE PRESENTED HE NOW BORDERED ON THE ELEGANT, LOOKING MORE LIKE A DISTINGUISHED MEXICAN DON THAN AN OUTLAW AWAITING A MURDER TRIAL!

VASQUEZ WAS DEFENDED BY COMPETENT LAWYERS, P. BRITTON TULLY, WILLIAM HENRY COLLINS AND JOSEPH A. MOULTREE. ATTORNEY-GENERAL JOHN LORD LOVE AND N. C. BRIGGS, DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF SAN BENITO COUNTY, WERE THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS. WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION INCLUDED ABDON LEIVA, ROSARIA LEIVA, JOHN UTZERATH, ANDREW SNYDER AND OTHERS. JUDGE DAVID BELDEN PRESIDED. ON JANUARY 5, 1875, THE COURT CONVENED AND A JURY WAS SELECTED. THE TRIAL LASTED FOUR DAYS AND CENTERED ON THE MURDER OF LEANDER DAVIDSON AND DETAILS SURROUNDING THE SNYDER STORE INCIDENT. EACH DAY THE COURTROOM

WAS OVERFLOWING," NINE TENTHS OF THEM LADIES."

THE PROSECUTION OFFERED A MASS OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE WITH LEIVA'S TESTIMONY DECIDEDLY THE MOST DAMAGING. HE MADE THE ONLY POSITIVE ACCUSATIONS OF VASQUEZ' MURDER OF DAVIDSON AND HIS IMPLICATION IN THE TWO OTHER DEATHS. UNDER OATH, VASQUEZ TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD NEVER KILLED A MAN AND PLACED THE SNYDER STORE MURDERS DIRECTLY ON LEIVA AND THE OTHER GANG MEMBERS.

AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT IS THE DISCLOSURE THAT SHERIFF ADAMS WAS CALLED AS THE LAST DEFENSE WITNESS! HE TESTIFIED THAT WHILE LEIVA WAS IN THE SAN JOSÉ PRISON (FOR HIS OWN PROTECTION) HE (ADAMS) INTERVIEWED LEIVA SEVERAL TIMES. LEIVA TOLD HIM THAT HE WAS TELLING ALL THE FACTS. BUT AT NO TIME HAD LEIVA STATED THAT IT WAS VASQUEZ WHO HAD SHOT DAVIDSON OR THAT HE SAW VASQUEZ SHOOT THROUGH THE DOOR. ONLY AT THE TRIAL DID HE MAKE THESE POSITIVE STATEMENTS.

AFTER BOTH PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS MADE THEIR FINAL ARGUMENTS, BOTH ASKING FOR THE EXTREME PENALTY, JUDGE BELDEN GAVE LENGTHY INSTRUCTIONS TO THE JURY. HE PARTICULARLY POINTED OUT THE LEGAL IMPORTANCE OF COMPLICITY AND ASSOCIATION IN CRIME. ONE PARAGRAPH FROM HIS SPEECH ILLUSTRATES THIS POINT:

"THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE PROSECUTION TO SHOW THAT THE DEFENDENT FIRED THE FATAL SHOT, OR BY WHOM IT WAS FIRED. IT IS SUFFICIENT IF IT WAS FIRED BY ONE MEMBER OF THE PARTY THERE ASSOCIATED TOGETHER FOR, AND ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN ROBBERY, AND THAT IT WAS FIRED IN FURTHERANCE OF THE COMMON PURPOSE TO COMMIT THIS ROBBERY, THAT IN SUCH A CASE, ALL OF THE PERSONS THUS ASSOCIATED IN THE ROBBERY, ARE EQUALLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE HOMICIDE, AND ALL THUS ASSOCIATING AND ACTING, ARE GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE."

THE JURY REACHED A DECISION IN TWO HOURS. THE FOREMAN HANDED THE VERDICT TO MR. POMEROY, THE CLERK, WHO READ IT TO A HUSHED COURTROOM:

"WE, THE JURY, FIND THE DEFENDENT GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, AND ASSIGN THE DEATH PENALTY."

GEORGE W. REYNOLDS, FOREMAN.

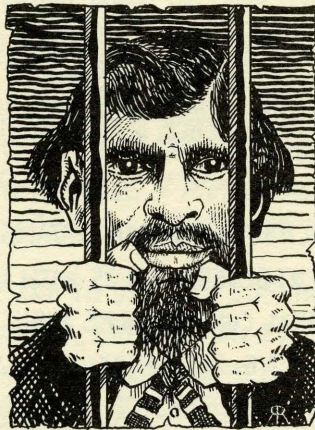
THERE WAS NO COURTROOM DEMONSTRATION OR APPLAUSE. VASQUEZ PALED AND HIS FAMILY MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY HIS SISTER MARIA, WERE DEEPLY AND VISIBLY AFFECTED.

JUDGE DAVID BELDEN DELIVERED THE DEATH SENTENCE ON JANUARY 23RD. THIS OCCASIONED THE SPEECH, LONG FAMOUS IN LOCAL ANNALS, STARTING WITH THE LINE, "TIBURCIO VASQUEZ - STAND UP!" AND ENDING WITH "AND MAY THE LORD HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SOUL." IT WAS REPORTED (AND A READING WILL VERIFY!) THAT THIS SPEECH WAS ANOTHER "LONG-WINDED, MORALISTIC DIATRIBE" OF 900 WORDS WITH FREQUENT COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE EXPENSE (\$40,000) TO THE STATE IN CAPTURING VASQUEZ. THE JUDGE SET THE DATE FOR EXECUTION FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1875. IT WAS REPORTED THAT "VASQUEZ LISTENED WITHOUT A SIGN OF EMOTION, WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST EXHIBITION OF BRAVADO HE WAS EITHER POSSESSED OF AN INHUMAN HEART, SO THAT HE HAD NO CARE FOR HIMSELF, OR HAD ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF HIS NERVES."

AS HIS DAYS GREW SHORT, VASQUEZ' CELL WAS CROWDED WITH VISITORS. REVEREND FATHER LAURENCE SERDA OF ST. PATRICKS CHURCH WAS A FREQUENT CALLER. IT WAS SAID THAT VASQUEZ WAS AN AGNOSTIC WITH UNCERTAIN BELIEFS IN THE HEREAFTER, BUT IN DEFERENCE TO THE FEELINGS OF HIS RELATIVES, HE CONFORMED TO ALL THE LAST RITES OF THE CHURCH INCLUDING CONFESSION AND PENITENCE.

THE MAJORITY OF HIS VISITORS WERE FROM HIS OWN RACE BUT THERE WERE SEVERAL PROMINENT LOCAL AMERICANS. THE NUMBER OF THESE CITIZENS WHO, AT SOME TIME IN THE PAST, WITHOUT "RECOGNIZING" VASQUEZ, HAD GIVEN HIM SHELTER FROM A STORM OR A HASTY KITCHEN-DOOR MEAL WAS SURPRISING! (VASQUEZ HAD BEEN FOND OF A CERTAIN SAN JOSÉ LADY'S PANCAKES AND AFTER EACH SUCH A BREAKFAST ALWAYS LEFT A GOLD PIECE UNDER HIS PLATE.)

MANY VISITORS WERE NO DOUBT PROMPTED EITHER BY A NATURAL CURIOSITY OR PLAIN DESIRE TO MEET AT LAST THIS ROGUE FACE TO FACE (AND PARTICULARLY IN SUCH FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES). WITHOUT EXCEPTION, HE MET THEM WITH POLITENESS AND AFFABILITY BUT AN EDITOR OF A PROMINENT SAN JOSÉ NEWSPAPER TOOK BITTER EXCEPTION TO SUCH LAVISH PUBLIC ATTENTION HE WROTE, "AS LONG AS VASQUEZ, THE VULGAR, COWARDLY



ASSASSIN AND ROBBER WAS AT LARGE, THE CRY WAS 'DOWN WITH HIM' BUT HE NO SOONER IS BROUGHT DOWN THAN AN EXCEEDINGLY VULGAR SENTIMENT DISCLOSES ITSELF, COMMISERATING THE RENEGADE, AND 'OH - POOR-FELLOWING' HIM FOR SORT OF A BLOODY, BOLD AND RESOLUTE HERO OF DELIGHTFUL ROMANCE!" HARSH WORDS THESE, BUT WE MUST ADMIT A TRAPPED WOLF ATTRACTS MORE SYMPATHY THAN A WILD ONE AND IN MANY RESPECTS, THERE HAD BEEN A SURPRISING SOFTENING OF PUBLIC ATTITUDE.

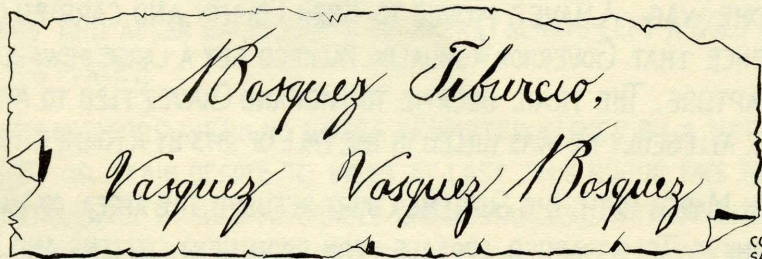
MEANWHILE CHAVEZ VICIOUSLY CARRIED ON HIS FALLEN LEADER'S DEPREDACTIONS. AFTER VASQUEZ WAS SENTENCED, THE TOWN OF HOLLISTER RECEIVED A PROCLAMATION SIGNED BY "CLEVARO CHAVEZ & CO." IN IT CHAVEZ CONFESSED TO ALL THE MURDERS ATTRIBUTED TO VASQUEZ AND SWORE THAT IF VASQUEZ WAS EXECUTED HE WOULD DESCEND ON THE TOWN WITH A VENGEANCE SURPASSING MURIETA AT THE TIME, IT WAS ACCEPTED AS A SERIOUS THREAT; LATER IT WAS CONSIDERED THE POSSIBLE PRODUCT OF SOME WAG. CHAVEZ MOVED TO KERN COUNTY AND CARRIED ON SUCH VIOLENCE THAT GOVERNOR ROMUALDO PACHECO SET A LARGE REWARD FOR HIS CAPTURE. THE TRAIL BECAME TOO HOT AND CHAVEZ FLED TO ARIZONA WHERE ALLEGEDLY HE WAS KILLED IN THE FALL OF 1875 BY A FORMER VICTIM

ON MARCH 12TH. THE SUPREME COURT REFUSED THE APPEAL OF VASQUEZ' ATTORNEYS. TELEGRAPHED APPEALS FROM PROMINENT CITIZENS AND STATE OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THE GRAVE DANGER OF GENERAL REPRISALS. ALL SUCH PLEAS WERE FIRMLY DENIED BY GOVERNOR PACHECO. THEREUPON

SHERIFF ADAMS PREPARED FOR THE FINAL EVENT. THE COUNTY HAD NO GALLOWES SO ONE WAS BORROWED FROM SACRAMENTO, RECENTLY SUCCESSFULLY TESTED ON THREE MURDERERS. IT WAS ASSEMBLED IN THE COURTYARD AND WAS SURROUNDED BY A HIGH BOARD FENCE SCREENING IT FROM FIRST STREET AND MARKET STREET.

ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 17TH., SHERIFF ADAMS, SAWYER, FOOTE, BEERS, COLLINS AND OTHERS SPENT SEVERAL HOURS WITH VASQUEZ GIVING HIM THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY FINAL CONFESSION HE MIGHT WISH TO MAKE. VASQUEZ WAS CHEERFUL AND TALKATIVE, RECOUNTING DETAILS OF HIS CAPTURE AND EXPLAINING LONG STANDING MYSTERIES OF HIS PAST EXPLOITS HE DENIED ANY SERIOUS RELATIONS WITH LEIVA'S WIFE ROSARIA* HE CONTINUED TO PLACE FULL BLAME ON LEIVA AND MORENO. HE DENIED THAT HE WAS EVER DRUNK BEFORE OR AFTER ANY OF HIS ROBBERIES; ON THE CONTRARY HE HAD ALWAYS STOOD WATCH WHILE HIS MEN REVELED! AS ALWAYS, HE DENIED EVER KILLING A MAN. EVEN AT THIS LATE HOUR HIS PREVIOUS REPUTATION FOR PREVARICATION PERMITTED THESE STATEMENTS LITTLE CREDENCE.

WHEN ASKED IF HE WISHED TO PLACE ANY FINAL STATEMENTS IN WRITING, HE ALLEGEDLY DICTATED TWO, ONE TO "THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS OF CALIFORNIA" AND ANOTHER "TO MY FORMER ASSOCIATES." IT MUST BE CONCEDED THAT THESE WERE BOTH SCHOLARLY ESSAYS AND MAY HAVE REFLECTED THE DOOMED BANDIT'S NEWLY CONCEIVED PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE BUT THEIR ELEVATED, RHETORICAL TONES STRONGLY INDICATED THE INFLUENCE OF, OR MORE LIKELY, THE REAL ACTUAL COMPOSITION BY SHERIFF ADAMS, ATTORNEY COLLINS OR FATHER SERDA. NEVERTHELESS, VASQUEZ DID APPROVE THEIR CONTENTS ALTHOUGH HE REFUSED TO SIGN THEM.



Bosquez Teburcio,
Vasquez Vasquez Bosquez

SAMPLE OF VASQUEZ HANDWRITING FOUND IN HIS JAIL CELL

COURTESY—
SAN JOSE
LANDMARKS
COMMISSION

* IT WAS COMMON RUMOR THAT AFTER THE TRIAL ABDÓN LEIVA, TO AVOID REPRISALS, TOOK SHIP FOR CHILE, NEVER TO BE HEARD FROM AGAIN. BUT HIS OR ROSARIA'S DEFINITE FATE IS UNKNOWN.

BY SCRAPS OF PAPER IN THE HANDS OF A COLLECTOR IT IS KNOWN THAT VASQUEZ WROTE POETRY OF ABOVE AVERAGE QUALITY AND DURING THE LAST DAYS OF HIS IMPRISONMENT DECIDED TO WRITE THE ENTIRE STORY OF HIS LIFE. BUT FOR VASQUEZ MONOTONY WAS DEADLY, ADVENTURE WAS THE ONLY TONIC OF LIFE. THE SHADOWS OF THE GALLOWES HUNG TOO DARKLY. OVER AND OVER HE WROTE ONE LINE "RECUERDOS Y MEMORIAS DE TIBURCIO VASQUEZ." FINALLY HE ADDED "ADIOS" AND WROTE NO MORE

HE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO SEE HIS COFFIN. ACCORDINGLY, TRUEMAN & WOODROW, UNDERTAKERS, BROUGHT AN EXCEPTIONALLY FINE COFFIN INTO HIS CELL, PRICE \$50 AND CONSIDERED QUITE EXTRAVAGANT IN THOSE DAYS. VASQUEZ WAS SAID TO HAVE EXAMINED IT CAREFULLY, PRESSED THE SATIN CUSHIONS AND REMARKED, "I CAN SLEEP HERE FOREVER WELL." HE THEN TRIED ON A NEW PAIR OF TROUSERS AND COMPLAINED THAT THEY WERE TOO TIGHT. UPON REFLECTION HE QUICKLY APOLOGIZED, SAYING THAT "HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO USE THEM MUCH." ON THE DAY BEFORE THE EXECUTION, VASQUEZ RECEIVED A CONSTANT FLOW OF VISITORS AND TELEGRAMS, ONE FROM A FAMOUS EVANGELIST OF THE DAY. SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT VASQUEZ CHATTED WITH SHERFF ADAM'S SON, HIS GUARD FOR THE LAST NIGHT, SMOKED A CIGAR AND WAS REPORTED TO HAVE FALLEN INTO A DEEP SLEEP.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE,		}
County of Santa Clara.		
San Jose, March 18 th 1875		
To <i>A. C. Bassett Esq</i>		
SIR.— Pursuant to the Statute in such cases you are hereby invited to be present at the execution of Tiburcio Vasquez, at the Jail of said County, in San José, on the 19th day of March, A. D. 1875, at 1:30 o'clock P. M.		
J H. ADAMS, Sheriff.		
PRESENT AT JAIL ENTRANCE. NOT TRANSFERABLE		



ONE OF THE
400 PASSES TO
THE EXECUTION

COURTESY OF THE
WELLS FARGO BANK
HISTORY ROOM

TIBURCIO VASQUEZ ROSE EARLY ON HIS LAST DAY, MARCH 19, 1875, DRESSED CAREFULLY AND ATE A HEARTY BREAKFAST. HE SPENT THE ENTIRE FORENOON WITH HIS RELATIVES WHO EXHIBITED SUCH INTENSE EMOTIONS THAT THESE LAST HOURS COULD HAVE BEEN HIS WORST PUNISHMENT.

THE VAST CROWD HAD ARRIVED EARLY. SPECIAL PASSES BEARING A "NOT TRANSFERABLE" CLAUSE HAD BEEN PRINTED FOR THE FAVORED 400 THAT

COULD CROWD INTO THE SMALL COURTYARD. FOR THE "LESS FAVORED," TREES AND HOUSETOPS SERVED AS BALCONIES FOR THIS ONE-ACT TRAGEDY.

THE SAN JOSÉ MERCURY OF MARCH 20, 1875, READ, "THE ATTENDANCE OF REPORTERS WAS GREATER THAN AT ANY EXECUTION ON THE COAST. EVERY LEADING PAPER HAD A REPRESENTATIVE. SEVERAL EASTERN JOURNALS HAD REPORTERS PRESENT. AMONG THE LATTER WAS A MISS A. MITTLIER WHO CAME ALL THE WAY FROM CANADA" SHE OCCUPIED (AS A SPECIAL POINT OF VANTAGE) A SEAT ON THE ROOF OF THE JAIL. THIS NEWSPAPER ALSO LISTS THE PRESENCE OF 13 SHERIFFS FROM ALL POINTS IN CALIFORNIA WITH SIX SHERIFFS FROM ADJOINING COUNTIES STANDING ON THE SCAFFOLD.

THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF 9800 INHABITANTS, RUMORS WERE RAMPANT, "A LIBERATION TUNNEL IS BEING DUG FROM AN ADOBE ACROSS MARKET STREET!" "A RESCUE PARTY, A SMALL ARMY OF MEXICANS IS APPROACHING THE JAIL!" MEXICANS WERE NATURALLY DRAWN TO SAN JOSÉ IN GREAT NUMBERS BUT THEY WERE WELL BEHAVED AND THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF ORGANIZED VIOLENCE. THE MAJORITY PERHAPS DEPLORED THE UNDESERVED RACIAL STIGMA OF THE MOMENT AND WERE WELL SATISFIED TO SEE IT QUICKLY PASS.

AT NOON SHERIFF ADAMS DECIDED TO READ A LENGTHY DEATH WARRANT TO VASQUEZ IN HIS CELL INSTEAD OF PROLONGING HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCE. LEGAL PHRASES WERE EXPLAINED FOR HIM AND HE NODDED HIS HEAD AT INTERVALS. AT THE CONCLUSION SHERIFF ADAMS SAID, "TIBURCIO, THE TIME HAS COME." "ALL RIGHT," HE REPLIED AND THEN SHOOK HANDS WITH THE GROUP OF OFFICERS AND JAILERS SURROUNDING HIM, THANKING THEM INDIVIDUALLY FOR THEIR KINDNESS DURING THE LONG MONTHS OF IMPRISONMENT. IN THE CITY SALOONS, THE ARGUMENTS, EVEN THE BETS, HINGED ON THE TEST OF VASQUEZ' COURAGE AND "GAMENESS" AT THIS MOMENT.

VASQUEZ, CARRYING A SMALL CRUCIFIX, WAS FLANKED LEFT AND RIGHT BY THE SHERIFF AND PRIEST. AS THE TRIO MOUNTED THE 13 STEPS A HUSH FELL OVER THE CROWD. THE PRIEST ADMINISTERED THE LAST RITES, VASQUEZ CALMLY REMOVED HIS COAT, COLLAR AND TIE AND HE WAS BOUND WITH STRAPS. AT 12:35 THE NOOSE WAS QUICKLY ADJUSTED, THE BLACK CAP READIED AND WITH HIS LAST WORD "PRONTO!" VASQUEZ PLUNGED INTO THE PAGES OF OUTLAW HISTORY.

HIS YEARS OF CUNNING AVOIDANCE OF THE LAW HAD CARRIED A COMMON BELIEF IN HIS COWARDICE. WITNESSING OFFICERS AND CITIZENS WERE ALL ASTONISHED AT HIS COURAGE ON THIS FINAL DAY.

TO SHOW THE DEPTH OF INTENSE GRIEF OF THE DISTRAUGHT VASQUEZ FAMILY MEMBERS, AUSTEN WARBURTON OF SANTA CLARA TELLS OF HIS PIONEER GRANDFATHER, DOCTOR H.H. WARBURTON, THE FIRST PRACTISING PHYSICIAN IN SANTA CLARA IN 1848. THE DOCTOR HAD LONG CARED FOR MEMBERS OF THE VASQUEZ FAMILY AND THEY WORSHIPPED THIS KINDLY MAN. IN THESE TORTUROUS HOURS OF GRIEF AND IN THEIR UTTER HELPLESSNESS THEY TURNED TO HIM. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EXECUTION, WOULD HE PLEASE CALL AT THEIR HOME, STUDY THE VERTEBRAE DISLOCATION AND THE POSSIBILITY OF RESUSCITATION? MOVED BY THEIR DESPERATE PLEAS THEIR FRIEND AGREED. DOCTOR WARBURTON MADE THE FUTILE CALL.

IN THE MODEST SANTA CLARA COTTAGE OF A RELATIVE, GUADALUPE BEE, TIBURCIO VASQUEZ, SPLENDIDLY DRESSED, LAY IN STATE LIKE A MARTYRED HERO. GROUPS OF RELATIVES AND THE EVER-CURIOUS PUBLIC DRIFTED SILENTLY IN AND OUT FOR A LAST LOOK AT THE FAMOUS BANDIT.

IN AN ELABORATE FUNERAL PROCESSION, THE NEXT DAY THEY FOLLOWED HIM TO HIS GRAVE IN A SANTA CLARA CEMETERY. IT WAS HERE FOR SEVERAL NIGHTS HIS GRIEF STRICKEN SISTER MARIA INSISTED ON MAINTAINING A LONELY VIGIL. FINALLY EXHAUSTED, OTHER FRIENDS TOOK HER PLACE. THEY FEARED A GHOULISH REPETITION OF THE GHASTLY MURIETA AFTERMATH. TO REASSURE AND QUIET SUCH FEARS, ON MARCH 25TH. THE GRAVE AND COFFIN WERE OPENED. THE BANDIT WAS UNDISTURBED. HE WAS THEN RETURNED TO THE EARTH, AS TIBURCIO VASQUEZ HAD SO HOPEFULLY PROPHESED, "TO REST FOREVER WELL."

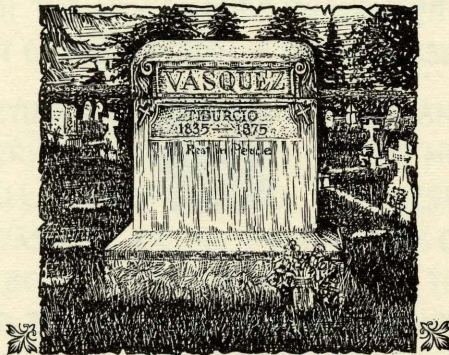


EPILOGUE



ON A RECENT MEMORIAL DAY, THE WRITER, NOT IMMUNE TO MORBID CONTEMPLATION, WANDERED THROUGH THIS NEARBY SANTA CLARA CATHOLIC CEMETERY. THE GRAVES OF MANY OF THE VALLEY'S ALMOST FORGOTTEN PIONEERS WERE DECORATED WITH FLOWERS. FOLLOWING THE COURSE OF COMMON HABIT, OUR DEPARTING STEPS WERE DRAWN TO THAT NORTHWEST CORNER TO HALT BEFORE A RESPECTABLE MONUMENT NOW REPLACING THE ORIGINAL REDWOOD CROSS. THE INSCRIPTION SIMPLY READS, "TIBURCIO VASQUEZ 1835-1875-REST IN PEACE." LOVERS OF ROMANTIC EPITAPHS MIGHT WELL WISH FOR AN ADDED LINE, "THE ROBIN HOOD OF CALIFORNIA." BUT NEITHER HOPEFUL RESEARCH OR MELLOWING PASSAGE OF YEARS WILL EVER SO PERMIT. THOUGH HIS TRUE CHARACTER IS MYSTERIOUSLY SHROUDED, TIBURCIO VASQUEZ STILL RIGHTFULLY WEARS THE OUTLAW'S BRAND.

BUT FRIENDLESS AND ALMOST FORGOTTEN?
ON THIS MEMORIAL DAY NEARLY A CENTURY LATER, THERE BELOW THE HEADSTONE IN A GLASS FRUIT JAR WAS A FRESH BOUQUET OF MARIGOLDS.



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