

PACIFIC NORTHWEST AMERICANA

An Oregon Item Brought to Light

In the Diary of Colonel Philip L. Edwards published in Sacramento in 1890 (*Checklist*, No. 1083) an introductory statement is made to the effect that Edwards published a pamphlet descriptive of California after his return to the East in 1837. The existence of this pamphlet has been called in question, even so diligent a bibliographer as Mr. H. R. Wagner having stated (*Plains and the Rockies*, p. 31), "I think this must be a mistake as no pamphlet is known that could very well have been written by Edwards."

Mr. Wagner has now come into possession of a copy of this pamphlet which had fortunately been preserved by the Edwards family but it turns out to relate to Oregon not to California. The title page reads as follows: *Sketch of the Oregon Territory; or Emigrants' Guide. By P. L. Edwards, Esq., of Richmond, Mo. Liberty, Mo: printed at the Herald Office. 1842.* The pamphlet is a small octavo of twenty pages and the subject matter takes the form of a letter written to Dr. T. M. Bacon, Liberty, Missouri. The information of this first far-west emigrants' guide is presented with a dignity and restraint quite in contrast with modern publicity literature. It awakens new interest in the author. A valuable article on Colonel Philip Leget Edwards contributed by Charles L. Camp is to be found in the current issue of the Quarterly of the California Historical Society, Vol. 3, Pp. 73-83.

A Rare Dictionary of the Chinook Jargon

After more than ten years' endeavor the University of Washington Library has obtained a copy of the Chinook Jargon Dictionary compiled by Thomas W. Prosch and published in Seattle by Griffith Davies in 1888. This item is described in Pilling's *Bibliography of the Chinookan Languages*, Pp. 60-61, and a copy is contained in the Library of Congress. Strangely enough no copy has hitherto been available in the libraries of the Pacific Northwest and the present copy is the only one known to exist in the West. The practical disappearance of this 40 page pamphlet affords an extreme illustration of the ephemeral nature of pamph-