

## Pathway through CWGA Historical Graphite Drawing

"Stoic best describes the guard dog watching over it's sheep and 150 years of California Wool Growers Association history. In the lower hand region of the graphite drawing, old Spanish missions symbolize the arrival of sheep to California from Mexico in the mid to late 1700s. See five of the oldest Mission brands overlying an early day map of California sheep trails. The Palace Hotel, where the first and many subsequent CWGA meetings took place, is represented by a recreation of the hotels own historic mural of pioneers first vision of "the palace rising above the fog, and by an old "Welcome Wool Growers Association" advertisement. Next is a rendition of the actual letter which acknowledges a first meeting and announces the second meeting of the California Sheep Raisers and Woolgrowers Association. The purpose of the formation of CWGA in 1860 was to purchase a ship to send wool "around the horn" to Boston Mills.

Moving counter clockwise into the present day, the announcement of the 150th meeting at the 90th annual ram sale illustrates one of CWGA's most important functions today. A symbol of industry unity, the ASI logo is represented, contrasting with reproductions of old ram sale posters. The early day photographer Henley is commemorated in two areas for his sensitive images which captured the essence of the pride in livestock of that era so well. The San Francisco Cow Palace, seed stock producers, Winchester Paddock Wing and several other noted individuals are acknowledged in the area adjoining the ram sale.

Moving on, into the lower right corner, contributions by the women's auxiliary are illustrated by the 1060s float "Lambie Pie" (which was made of over 200 lamb pelts) which promoted wool to crowds in Los Angeles. Contributions of today's women's auxiliary are represented by Kern County Bo Peeps "Historical Brands quilt and brand book project. Make it With Wool of the 30's was and continues today to be part of the textile industry.

Wool continues to dominate the right side of the graphite drawing, here one sees old methods of grading and weighing wool recorded here from early day photos. A prize pelt and CWGA's historical and renowned Wool Cup pay tribute to the pride in product. The harvest of wool is illustrated by a sheering left of which modern day wool bales are stored under cover. The American Wool Council logo symbolizes the industry of today.

Paralleling the wool industry is acknowledgement of the contributions the sheep industry made during World War II known as "The War Effort"

The top right corner represents a range operation in the high Sierras. Below it lies a representation of the transitional cedar/ juniper country common to California's high deserts, then transcending into the Delta fog where levees border the ocean, left into the Stockton area where the ghost of Stockton Woolen Mills is illustrated.

Moving to the upper left corner, find a Joshua tree and water truck, indicative of a Mojave Desert range operation. Below, one sees a herder and Border collie with feeder lambs grazing on vast alfalfa fields, a common sight in the San Joaquin, Imperial and Sacramento valleys of California. Also note the miles of alfalfa bales under cover in the background. Electric fence (left side of tree trunk) due to its portability represents a multitude of various grazing opportunities, as illustrated by the grazing of crop residue in a cauliflower field.

Magazine issues represent: LAMB COOKBOOK - food for our nation; OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA- Candidate and endangered species effecting the sheep industry, SHEEP BREEDERS 1949 and THE DORPER JOURNAL represent the broad array of sheep breeds, past and present, THE SHEPHERD keeps producers current and leads the industry into tomorrow. The American Lamb Council logo signifying marketing tools of today.

A coyote and a mountain lion, subtly placed in the drawing represent predators.

Moving down the left side, fat lambs loading in doubles melt into a scene from the past of loading fat lambs into boxcars; a lamb buyer seems to oversee both scenes. The scene of the age old and present day practice of paint branding is taken from a 1920s photo. The advertisements for sheep products were recreated from old periodicals, and represent CWGAs function, at that time, of having livestock supplies available to the producers. Representing the work of today, new tools are interfaced in this area of the drawing.

In the lower left corner, again inspired from a beautiful old photo (discovered in the archives at the UC Davis library) a lady has her hands full feeding bumper lambs. In the foreground, good quality ewes watch over their lambs at play.

Dominating the central theme of the picture is a good set of western whiteface ewes with fat lambs, "nooned up" under a valley oak, somewhere on the west side of the valley. California is well known for its diversity of extremely good forage. Some of the botanicals encircling the central theme include Burr Clover, Ladino Clover, Vetch, and Filarie. California Poppies surround the fat lambs and the ever so stoic guardian of the sheep industry."

*A note from the artist, Barbara East:*

*The original art is 24" x 36" graphite on clay board, using both drawing and engraving techniques. As an artist, I found CWGA members to be a wonderful group of folks to work with; their passion and dedication to this project made it possible for me to compile and illustrate California Wool Growers Association fascinating past and document what will become tomorrow's history for future generations.*

