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POSTSCRIPT

On Page 71 of this issue, in his newspaper gleanings, George ROSS mentions the commencement of a series of articles by Seymour ANDREWS, concerning his trip across the country to the California gold fields in 1850. Several years ago, while checking old microfilmed newspapers at the State Historical Library, we found this series and had the articles photocopied. This would make an ideal article for this issue on Western Migration, but unfortunately by the time we remembered it we had already filled 95 of our allotted 100 pages per issue. The typewritten transcription of the articles runs to about 15 pages and so we will hold it over until the next issue. The copies are negative photostats and a word here and there has faded, but it makes very interesting reading. If anyone else has ever seen this series, perhaps they can help. The articles we have covers the trip across the country and their arrival at the gold fields. The last article indicates that the series was being continued, however, we checked the balance of the reel of microfilm and failed to find any more articles. We know that ANDREWS and his companions made the return trip home via Panama rather than overland, and would very much like to read the rest of the series. Does anyone have it?

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"A sea of grass was the West's last frontier. Onto it, between the 1860's and the 1890's, rolled the greatest migration in U.S. history. Urged on by the railroads' publicity campaigns and by offers of free government land, millions of settlers penetrated the vast plains between the Mississippi and the Rockies. On treeless expanses they built sod huts and one-room schoolhouses. Aided by windmill-driven pumps, barbed wire, new farm machinery, and a special winter wheat, these staunchly individualistic farmers prospered despite incredible loneliness, drabness, grasshopper plagues, droughts and tornadoes. Ultimately, they would transform the grasslands into the nation's breadbasket."

From "Story of the Great American West"

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"During the latter years of the 19th century, the times and the land combined to produce a great western epic. The manpower was furnished by the cowboy - vigorous, hard-riding, and soft-spoken. The action began after the Civil War with trail drives north from Texas and climaxed when huge cattle companies seized vast tracts of land and discouraged interlopers by a ready use of hired gunmen. When the epic ended in the 1890's, the nation fell heir to the legend of cowboy, gambler, lawman, and outlaw."

From "Story of the Great American West"