

## **John Brown**

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## California Here We Come

### **Introduction of Show**

Historical Narrator 1: And come they did! The desire to migrate to California has existed for centuries. People from all over the world strive to make this place their home. Among the first to come here were the Spaniards. We owe much of our cultural heritage today to Spain.

Historical Narrator 2: That's right! The King of Spain once owned the entire Pacific coast but it took them about 150 years before they made a settlement in California.

Real estate expert: (*Very surprised*) You're kidding?? 150 years!!! Didn't he realize that when you find hot property you have to develop it before the word leaks out? He could have had castles everywhere. San Diego, Carmel, San Francisco.

Audience Announcer(*speaks aside to the audience*): Can you imagine how much he would be worth today? He could be giving the Donald a run for his money,

Historical Narrator 1: Well Spain did build "The King's Highway" along the California coast where they built missions up and down the state.

Real estate expert: Oh, so I get it. He had his very own highway connecting all his cool houses together. Nice!!!

Audience Announcer: (*Frustrated*) No! (*Aside to the audience*) He may know something about hot property but he's a bit rusty on California history.

Historical Narrator 2: Actually, the missions were where the Franciscan priests taught the Native Americans about Christianity and brought them some great farming tricks.

Audience Announcer: Those days influenced everything about our culture—the food, the architecture and even the music.

## **Cielito Lindo**

## **The Rancheros Commentary**

Rancheros historian: Some forty years after the missions began, our neighbor Mexico began to fight for its independence from Spain and eventually won.

Confused commentator: So what happened to us then?

Historian 2: Well, there wasn't really an "us" yet because we didn't exist.

Confused commentator: What do you mean we didn't exist? We're right here next to Mexico now, the same way as we were then.

Historian 2: I know, but we weren't California yet: it's just that Spanish control had come to an end for the California people.

Confused commentator: But you just said there weren't any California people.

Historian 2: What I said was there wasn't a California...as in a state of the United States. Not until later. Now there was a blend of Mexican and Spanish settlers.

Rancheros historian: (Interrupting) Could I say something? Mexico was eager to colonize California and made huge land grants to those willing to work the land. You could trade a few cows and get thousands of acres.

Historian 2: They were called "rancheros" and the owners were called "californios".

Confused commentator: But I thought you said there weren't any Californians.

Historian 2: (Throws up arms) Ahhh!!!

All exit.

## **Rancheros Skit**

Colonist: How is the round-up going, Vaquero? The Judge of the Plains is coming to make sure we have separated our cattle from the others that run this range.

Assistant: Yes. He is very strict and will make sure we have only our own animals.

Vaquero 1: Si, Senor. Todo es bueno. This job was a piece of cake for us. You have nothing to fear.

Vaquero 2: Si. The herds were frightened and they began to stampede; dust was flying everywhere and some of our cows broke away but we rode hard, roping them to the ground.

Vaquero 1: Ah Si. We are tired and hungry, but ready to celebrate tonight at the fandango.

Vaquero 2: Si, Trabajo, trabajo, the work is finally done. One steer went crazy and broke away, but we rode hard, roped it to the ground, and threw ourselves on top of....

Assistant: (sarcastically) The story is getting better. You forgot the part about the dust flying everywhere.

Vaquero 3: Si, the dust was everywhere; we could barely see a thing, but no need to worry. All 3000 of your cattle are separated and the calves are branded.

Colonist: (Hands on head, exasperated) What 3000! Did you say three thousand? But, but we only have 2000 head of cattle on this rancho!!!

All vaqueros: Ay!!!

Assistant: We know. The dust was flying everywhere.

Vaquero 3: Vamanos, Vamanos. Let's forget our troubles and dance the night away. (All vaqueros run off)

Colonist: Your troubles! Your troubles!! I'm the one with trouble. (Cry on to assistant's shoulders)

## **Gold rush Introduction:**

Gold rush Announcer: In the early 1840s, California was a distant outpost.

Announcer 2: Only a handful of Americans had even seen it.

Goldrush announcer: In the next decade, major changes took place.

Announcer 2: The United States won the war against Mexico and the rich land of California was part of its victory.

Goldrush announcer: By 1848, something else happened that would change California forever

Announcer 2: James Marshall and about 20 men were sent to the river to build a sawmill for their boss.

Early one morning...

## **The First Discovery of Gold Skit:**

Ma: Where's Marshall? I told him to get on down and check the water flow.

AJ: I just woke up, Ma . I ain't seen him.

Ma: It's already seven. Go find him

AJ: Can't a girl have a cup o joe?

Sam: There he is. (*pointing off stage.*)Down yonder

Marshall: Will you looky what I've got here!!

Ma: What ya got?

Marshall: What I got here, little lady is G-O-L-D. Gold!!!

Ma: Ahh! You haven't woke up yet. You're still dreamin'.

Sam: (Looking over Marshalls shoulder)- Well sir,I 'll bet my britches that's what it is. Where'd you git it?

Marshall: I was looking at the water flow and I saw a little flicker of light. I thought, "What in tarnation?" Lordy, my heart was a thumpin'. I know this must be gold!

AJ: (Grabs the nugget and tries to break it) Well I'll be darned! It doesn't break. It must be gold!

Sam: Let's go tell the camp

## I'm On My Way

By, Lerner and Loewe from the musical, "Paint Your Wagon"

**Jake:** Pete, I'm Moving.

**Pete:** Where?

**Jake:** North. Some fella came through and told me an old guy hit a pocket I ain't getting nothing out of this mountain, Pete. I gotta strike it and get home to my wife.

**Pete:** Where north are you going?

**Jake:** I don't know. Find out when I get there.

**Pete:** I'm coming too. Wait for me.

*Where am I goin'? I don't know*

*Where am I headin'?  
I ain't certain  
All I know  
Is I am on my way*

*When will I be there?  
I don't know  
When will I get there?  
I ain't certain  
All that I know  
Is I am on my way*

*Gotta dream boy  
Gotta song  
Paint your wagon  
And come along -*

*Where am I goin'?  
I don't know  
When will I be there?  
I ain't certain  
What will I get?  
I ain't equipped to say  
But who gives a dang? We're on our way*

**Molly:** Wait minute, guys. You can't go and leave now. You owe us for your tab at the general store. Why is there so much money you don't have?

**Polly:** He ain't hitting anything but slate rock around here. This time I have a hunch his luck is going to change.

**Pete:** Don't worry we'll be back and when we are, we'll make good on all our

debts.

**Molly and Polly:** Don't make us wait too long for the money.

**Pete and Jake:** We won't.

*Where am I goin'? I don't know*

*Where am I headin'?*

*I ain't certain*

*All I know*

*Is I am on my way*

*When will I be there?*

*I don't know*

*When will I get there?*

*I ain't certain*

*All that I know*

*Is I am on my way*

*Gotta dream boy*

*Gotta song*

*Paint your wagon*

*And come along*

**Liza:** It's North, I want to go doctor. North! Beyond that redwood country. I met an old man from Sacramento who swears by the saints there's a lake full of gold up there. You hear that, Doc a lake with a bottom of solid gold.

**Doc:** I'm going where the gold is in the ground!

**Liza:** Look at this map and it will show you exactly how to get there

**Doc:** I'm going to Rumson Creek. So Long!

**Liza:** Wait a minute. I'm coming

**Doc:** Come on, little banjo. Lead us to the rainbow.

**Gold Prospectors 1 and 2** exit toward doorway with Doc and Liza

*Where am I goin'? I don't know*

*Where am I headin'?  
I ain't certain  
All I know  
Is I am on my way  
When will I be there?  
I don't know  
When will I get there?  
I ain't certain  
All that I know  
Is I am on my way  
Gotta dream boy  
Gotta song  
Paint your wagon  
And come along*

**Alan:** Now who's this newcomer?

**Adam:** Looks like just another dreamer.

**Alan:** Yes Siree! Looking for his little gold pot of dreams.

**Newcomer:** I say, Miss, is this the sawmill?

**Priscilla:** Yeah. What's left of it.

In a week, there won't be enough dust around here to fill a bug's nose.

**Newcomer:** Ain't that something. Where are you headed for now?

**Priscilla:** Rumson Creek. Want to come along?

**Newcomer:** I'd love to come

**Adam:** I don't know. We've never seen you round here before. What's your statistics?

**Newcomer:** Edgar Parker, London England

**Adam:** That's a long name, Mr. England

**Alan:** Don't be silly Adam. He's said he's from London, England.

**Priscilla:** Edgar Parker London England. Let's go!

Sing whole song again

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## **Introduction of the Dust Bowler Migration:**

Announcer 1: The dream of a better life lived on right into the 1900s.

Announcer 2: In the 1930's, severe drought hit the Midwestern and southern plains.

Announcer 3: As the crops died, the 'black blizzards' began.

Announcer 1: Dust from the over-plowed and over-grazed land began to blow.

Announcer 2: Many people were forced to leave the Dust Bowl for California where they hoped to find work.

Announcer 3: They packed up their families and what was left of their belongings and headed west.

Announcer 1: Those who lost their land and lived through the dust storms, would never forget them.

Announcer 2: Those Californians became the migrant community written about in Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*.

Announcer 3: and sung about in many of Woody Guthrie's American folksongs.

**Do Re Mi** by, Woodie Guthrie 1937

Lots of folks back East, they say, is leavin' home every day,  
 Beatin' the hot old dusty way to the California line.

**Speaker 1: 'Cross the desert sands they roll, gettin' out of that  
 old dust bowl,**

**They think they're goin' to a sugar bowl, but here's what they  
 find --**

**Speaker 2: Now, the police at the port of entry say,  
 "You're number fourteen thousand for today."**

CHORUS:

Oh, if you ain't got the do re mi, folks, you ain't got the do re mi,  
 Why, you better go back to beautiful Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas,  
 Georgia, Tennessee.

California is a Garden of Eden, a paradise to live in or see;

But believe it or not, you won't find it so hot

If you ain't got the do re mi.

**Dust Bowler 1:** We heard it was like the Promised Land.

**Dust Bowler 2:** "My relatives had wrote letters back from  
 California a-telling how pretty the country was and about  
 the big rains and the big ocean

**Dust Bowler 3:** and the high mountains, and the valleys  
 with the green trees that was loaded down with most  
 every kind of groceries,

**Speaker 3: You want to buy you a home or a farm, that can't  
 deal nobody harm,**

**Or take your vacation by the mountains or sea.**

**Speaker 4: Don't swap your old cow for a car, you better stay  
 right where you are,**

**Better take this little tip from me.**

**Speaker 5: 'Cause I look through the want ads every day  
 but the headlines on the papers always say:**

If you ain't got the do re mi, boys, you ain't got the do re mi,

Why, you better go back to beautiful Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas,  
 Georgia, Tennessee.

California is a Garden of Eden, a paradise to live in or see; But believe  
 it or not, you won't find it so hot

If you ain't got the do re mi

**Dust Bowler 4:** They said the whole landscape out there just spelt the  
 word 'Work'... and I got so interested in the art and science of

migratin' that I majored in it, in a school so big you can't get out of it."

**All Speakers: Now, the police at the port of entry say,**

**"You're number fourteen thousand for today."**

**Chorus (repeat)**

## Hollywood in the Present Skit

Sunshine: Sounds like it's never been cheap to live in California.

Easy: It's hard to believe that while those folks from Oklahoma and Arkansas were living as migrants without homes or food, star powered movie studios were already making movies here.

Dreamer: That's called the Hollywood mythology.

Sunshine: Really?? You mean like gods and goddesses used to live here.

Dreamer: Not exactly. But, Hollywood has always had glamorous stars who lived fairytale lives.

Sunshine: I've seen them on TV, walking down that red carpet. What an easy job!

Hopeful: When I go to the Academy awards someday, I'll wear a gold dress (*or suit if boy*) and drive in a big white limo.

Tuffie: It's going to be hard to beat the odds. Show business still brings as many people to southern California as the gold rush did.

Hopeful: Only now it's a different kind of gold. Have you heard how much, say... Tom Cruise makes for one movie?

Dreamer: I know! Thousands and thousands. And it doesn't look that hard to me.

Easy: It's not. All we gotta do is get on this American Idol show.

Tuffie: I'm telling you. It's not as easy as it looks. You have to memorize and sing and dance and practice. You need to have that certain something---a look or a style.

Hopeful: That's right. It's called Pizzazz. Now, Let's go practice our acts. (All begin to exit)

Easy: (Aside to audience) We're not far off you know. We're very close. You all have to work with me. Just work with me, people.

## Hollywood Past Skit:

Marilyn: What a long train ride! I'm stiff as a board.

Julie: I didn't sleep a wink with that old lady snoring.

Angeline: Well I sure could use a warm bath and a cup of tea.

Rosie: Stop complaining you all. We made it we're here. Isn't it the most fabulous place you've ever seen?

Angeline: Not really so much to see yet, Rosie.

Julie: She's right though, I can just feel it in the air. It's warm and the smell of flowers is everywhere.

Rosie: When you move to this place, your life is going to change.

Marilyn: That's right, everyone. We just stand out on Hollywood Boulevard and the directors will find us.

Angeline: Right-0. Big bucks are coming our way. We'll have more money in a week than we've seen in our life times.

Marilyn: And designer gowns and fancy cars and a house in Beverly Hills.

Julie: Well Nelly B was here for six months and went to dozens of auditions before she gave up and ...

Rosie: (Interrupting). Never mind about Nelly. We're different. We're stars. We're made for this Hollywood life!!

## Travel Agency Skit

Office Assistant: (Answering phone) Golden State Tours. (Pause) Yes. (Pause) Yes sir! We have you booked for the Wax Museum as well as Universal Studios. (Pause) No, Friday is when we do the beach trip (Pause). We start south in Redondo Beach. (Pause) What's in Redondo Beach???

Tour Guide: What's in Redondo Beach?

TravelAgent/// Gimme that phone. (Speaking into phone) The first guy known to surf in California came from Hawaii to Redondo Beach.

Tour Guide: And did a demonstration at the opening of the Redondo Los Angeles railroad.

Travel Agent: Good are you kidding? He was so good he invented the short board by just breaking his long board in half.

Tour Guide: Long before there was Styrofoam or fiberglass.

Office Assistant: (grabbing the phone) That's right and the craze continued up the coast to Malibu where a 16-year-old girl named Gidget brought national attention to the sport. (Pause) Who was she?

Tour Guide: Who was she?!!!

Office Assistant: She's one of most important surfers of the last century.

Travel Agent: (Yelling toward phone.) Did you hear that? Surfer magazine named her 7th out of the top 25 most important surfers of the century!!!.

Office Assistant: Hello?? Hello?? (Pause) He hung up.

*(All Shrug)*

***Surf Skit: (Intro to Surfin' USA)***

Gidget: Please teach us how to surf. Just sitting here watching is driving us crazy.

Bopsie : Please, it looks like so much fun.

All Girls: Please. Help us.

(Irritated gesture from Scooter)

Gidget: I guess we're getting on his nerves, girls.

Breezy: (sarcastically) I guess he's forgetting whose mom drives him to the beach. Mine!!!

Gidget: Are we bothering you, Scooter?

Scooter: You're breathing aren't ya?

Breezy: Ahh, Come on. The waves look perfect.

Bopsie: If you don't teach us, Moondoggie will.

Scooter: (mimicking) If you don't teach us, Moondoggie will. Well why don't you ask him then

Bopsie: Will you....I mean would you be so kind as to take us out?

Moondoggie: Sure I will and Tubesteak will help. Won't you Tubesteak?

Tubesteak: What?? I didn't say that. What's in it for me?

All Girls: Sandwiches!!

Breezy: A big basket of fresh homemade sandwiches!

Tubesteak: Well why didn't you say so?

Moondoggie: (Gets up to demonstrate) OK. Girls, First you're going to get on your knees, push your shoulders up and slide your body back.

Tubesteak: Now spring to your feet quickly like this.

Scooter: Keep your feet about a foot apart.

*(Girls jump up, trying it.)*

Moondoggie: You've got it!! Let's go.

## Travel Agency 2:

Travel agent: *(Talking on the phone.)* Surfing isn't our only activity, Sir. There's swimming or snowboarding, soccer or baseball, rock climbing..... *(Pauses as if out of breath)*

Caller 1: I was wondering....do you book freeway-driving excursions? I heard that it's a sport in California.

Travel Agent: No, it's not a sport...I mean....everyone does it here. You just get in and hold on. One moment, please, *(answering phone)* "Golden State Tours."

Caller 2: What sort of activities do you offer in California? I'm thinking of taking a trip for my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Agent: I can book you in a hotel where you can just read a good book or rest in the sun.

Caller 2: Rest in the sun? I don't want to rest. I want to be like all the other people in your state.

Agent: Oh, you mean kayaking, sailing, snorkeling, roller blading, bicycling, skateboarding, surfing...

Caller 2: That's it, that's right. Can I try all of them?

Caller 1: Hello out there. I'm still on hold. *(Talking to the audience)* Those Californians must work on their cell phones.

Agent: Well, Yes. I suppose some people do all of them. *(Pause)* No, no, not at the same time!!! *(Throws hands up in the air and puts head on desk.)*

Caller 1: Can you hear me? Can you hear me now?

Caller 1 and 2: *(Tap on phones; shrug and exit)*

## Travel Agency 3:

Travel Agent: *(On the phone)* Yes sir, we have sunshine 320 days of each year; there's plenty of it to go around. Call us back when you're ready. *(Hangs up)*

Agent: *(On the phone)* Yes... you can drive from the desert to the snow in just a few hours. It's a beautiful trip. OK. See you then. *(Hangs up)*

Office Manager: What a day. There must be thousands of people booking a trip to California!

Travel Agent: And guess what? A lot of them end up staying here.

Bookkeeper: That's right. It says here that our population has tripled in the last 50 years.

Agent: Over 36 million of us!!

Office Manager: That's the size of the entire state of Vermont

Agent: Do you realize what that means? There won't be any room left for us.

Bookkeeper: Wait a minute. If it's our job to get people to come to California and they end up staying and the population keeps growing...

Office Manager: Then we're growing California. What are we doing??.

Bookkeeper: Come on. Let's take the afternoon off.

All: And get out in some of our sun!!!

## Closing

All Commentators: Californians came and kept coming. They were and still are adventurers.

Commentator 1: People who could adapt to constant changes; people who saw opportunity at every corner;

Commentator 2: People who longed for a more exciting life, and weren't afraid to grab it.

Commentator 3: What is it about California?

Commentator 1: Whether it's the gold rush or the golden sunshine that brought us, it's just a great place to live.

Commentator 2 : California has been shaped by the adventurers who stayed here— to form the personality of California today.

Commentator 3: It's a place that accepts and nurtures risk takers. From Dust Bowl refugees to budding actors..

All Commentators: It's the American dream...the California dream. It's a dream that lives on.

## California Here We Come (OC Version)

## California Sunset