San Diego Herald September 5, 1857

WIFE WANTED

by William Williams

The Advertiser wants a Wife and avails himself of the columns of the Herald to find one. On the score of personal appearance, he is considered by his friends and acquaintances as passable. In a pecuniary point of view he is unexceptionable and can support a wife and children, (if so blessed) in a comfortable manner, if free from those extravagant notions and airs so peculiar to a large portion of females of this part of the country. He is of good disposition and feels that he deserves a good wife, who must be of not less than 25 nor over 32 years of age—of fair personal appearance and education and of sound healthy body. If of a prolific family so much the better. Although aware of the natural delicacy of a lady answering a matrimonial advertisement, he pledges his honor to the sincerity of his intentions, and trusts to an equal sincerity on the part of any lady who may feel disposed to respond to this notice. And he hopes it may be one in whom

The graces of form to the features impart
The sweetness that lives in an innocent heart.

Address WM. WILLIAMS, San Diego Post Office.

A Mountain-Man Marriage. All the southern trails from the sea to the mountains and desert were frequented by Cockney Bill and his entourage of cattle-driving Indians. This salty, hard-drinking ex-sailor, the first settler of Julian, went from rags to riches to rags again in a barley bonanza at Viejas. By 1857 he had tired of boozy bachelorhood and placed this ad in the paper. It worked—within the month this man of action married Doña Ramona, the belle of Old Town balls.

Collected and endnoted by Albert Simonson. Typed and submitted by Carol Walker. Alpine Historical Society February, 2005