



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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[verso] Williams New Trans-Continental Map of The Pacific R.R. and Routes of Overland Travel To Colorado, Nebraska, The Black Hills, Utah, Idaho, Nevada, Montana California and the Pacific Coast . . . 1876 (With extensive notes including a reference to Black Bart!)

Stock#: 33466mba
Map Maker: Williams
Date: 1876
Place: New York
Color: Hand Colored
Condition:
Size: 36 x 23 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Verso illustration for the following map:

{{ inventory_detail_link('33466mb') }}

The following is the description for the map referenced above:

Rare first edition of this striking large format map of the Western, published by Henry T. Williams, with a handwritten note relating to the notorious stagecoach robber, Black Bart, who operated in Northern California and Southern Oregon from 1875 to 1883.

Williams map of the west follows the transcontinental railroad west from Omaha to San Francisco, and along with a number of other early railroad lines in the west. The train stations along each route are shown and named, along with several proposed routes. The map is one of the best examples of the colorful and inviting maps used to promote tourist travel to the west.

The present example of the map has been highly annotated, apparently by an early owner who travelled extensively along the West Coast and in California, including a contemporary brush with news of the notorious stage coach robber, Black Bart. The distances by Steamer along the Pacific are noted in blue pencil, showing distances between San Diego, San Pedro, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Humboldt Bay. Other notes along the west coast note the distances of the stage lines from San Diego to Anaheim and



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another extending to the coast west of Santa Rosa and Healdsburg, near modern day Fort Ross, Jenner and the mouth of the Russian River.

Perhaps the most colorful of all notes is the area east of Yreka and the stage line from Redding across the Sierras (near Sheep Rock) and on to Yreka and Roseburg Oregon. The large blue circle evidently denotes the area which pertains to the note: "about here is where the Stages are robbed! Crossing the mountains." This note almost certainly related to one the most notorious western stagecoach and train robbers, Charles Earl Bowles (aka Black Bart, Charles Bolton or C.E. Bolton). A British-born old west outlaw, Bowles first made several prospecting trips to the California gold regions in 1849 and 1852, before returning to the West to prospect in Idaho and Montana in 1867. Prior to turning to a life of crime, he noted an offensive incident involving his employees of the Wells Fargo & Company stage line. It was the last his wife ever heard of him.

Beginning in 1875, Bowles (as Black Bart), committed 28 stagecoach robberies over the next 8 years. leaving poems at the scenes of two of his early robberies, which earned him his fame as the poet robber. The annotation was likely made sometime between 1880 and 1882. Black Bart's first robbery in this region was his 10th Stagecoach robbery, which was on the Oregon-Yreka-Redding Route, on October 25, 1879. This was the 1st of 8 robberies in on the Oregon to Yreka Stage line, followed by 6 robberies on the same line in 1880-81, and 1 on September 17, 1882, including six in the general area of the circle on the map, between September 1880 and October 1881.

Further annotations on the map include:

- An "X" appears on the Columbia River, east of Vancouver.
- On the east end, in the margins, a blue circle defines "Stations going out", which include Omaha, Grand Island, Sidney (Nebraska), Cheyenne, Laramie, Green River (Wyoming), Ogden, Elko, Little Mountain (Nevada), Humboldt, Colfax (California) and Lathrop (California).
- Yosemite is circled and an area noted as "Mine" between Walker's Valley and Sonora Pass, with the note "Big Trees."
- The coastline of Washington is drawn in to the north, including Seattle and Victoria and Port Townsend, with Mt. (St.) Helens circled.

A fascinating set of notes by a thorough tourist or business traveller.



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The 1876 map is the first of two editions, the second of which was issued in 1877 (date in the title box). There are a number of changes in the second edition, including the following:

- Colorado (Colorado Central RR added with a loop down to Denver; Southern terminus of RR extended to Ft. Garland)
- New Mexico (Projected RR line from Ft. Dodge Kansas to Santa Fe; Denver & Rio Grande and AT&SF RRs extended from Colorado to Santa Fe)
- Arizona (Castle Dome Mountains added, new place names added along the southern part of the Colorado River)
- California (Southern Pacific RR extended to Santa Monica, New RR line connecting Oakland, Martinez, Tracy & Lahtrhop)
- Utah (proposed southern RR route from Denver to Salt Lake City removed)

Extensive promotional information, train time schedules etc., on the verso: {{
inventory_enlarge_link('33466mba')} }

An important map of the period, with remarkable contemporary annotations.

Detailed Condition:

Fold splits reinforced on verso, with a bit of paper loss replaced in facsimile. Many annotations in blue and black pencil.