



OLD-TIMERS
of
Southeastern California

LR

by **LESTER REED**

1927

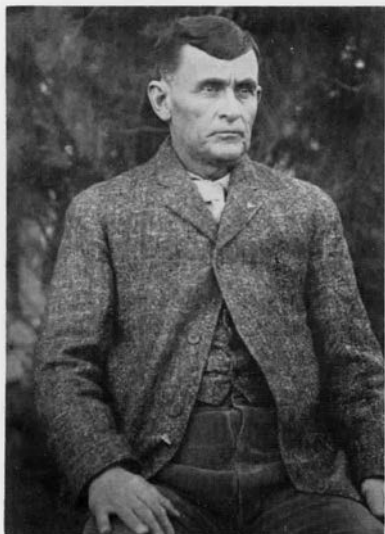
DEE GILL

I never had the opportunity to know or work with Dee Gill as I have others of whom I write in these pages, so do not know of incidents in his life to qualify in writing very much about him and his family. However, he was married to a first cousin of my mother's (Julia Aiken) whom I never had the opportunity to meet. During the past 24 years I have been acquainted with other old-timers of Inyo County, I have more often heard Dee Gill mentioned as being outstanding as a roper than any other man. He has also been mentioned as a good rider and a good hand with a horse.

The first time I ever heard mention of his two sons (Harold and Wendell) was from a tall bronc riding cowboy from Oklahoma, by the name of Ray Hill. I met Ray Hill in Brawley, California, and got him to help me move a bunch of bronco cows and Brahma bulls from Temecula to Borrego Valley. Ray had met Harold Gill and his brother Wendell,



Dee Gill. One of Inyo County's outstanding ropers in the early days. Collection of Relles Amick.



Dee Gill. Collection of Relles Amick.



Julia Gill, wife of Dee Gill. Her maiden name was Aiken. Collection of Relles Amick.

and they had impressed him as being good with the rope and their ability at riding bucking horses. He spoke of Harold as being such a pretty rider. In those days it took a real bucking horse to get from between old Ray Hill's knees.

I never did get to talk to Harold Gill but one time, and that was only for a few minutes. When talking with Bev Hunter, Harold Gill has often been mentioned to me as helping him in work with wild horses. When the twenty-mule team was being broken for the Death Valley Days Harold Gill came over from Nevada to help in the handling of them as shown by the photo in these pages. Wendell Gill I met when trapping coyotes and mountain lions in California's High Sierras. He and a man by the name of Burkhardt were in the packing business with mule trains, and they helped me by loaning pack-animals when I needed extras.

Dee Gill's daughter Elizabeth (Gill) Carrasco lives in Lone Pine, California, and is the mother of two sons and two daughters: William, "Bill," and the other son, the only name I know for him is "Swede." Rellias Amick, one of the daughters, lives in Olancha of the Owens Valley, and drives a school bus between Little Lake and Lone Pine. Her husband Austin works for the California State Department of Highways, and is a cowboy of the old school, who so well knows that a herd of cattle cannot be the most successfully moved by shoving and crowding behind, and knows how well it pays to avoid roping whenever possible. Elizabeth Carrasco's other daughter is Laverne Whiting. Her husband, when younger, was a fast calf roper around rodeos, but I do not believe he follows that any more. Laverne, for a long time, worked at Joseph's Store in Long Pine. I am unable to say whether she still does.

I have worked cattle with a grandson of Dee Gill ("Bill" Carrasco) and a great-grandson ("Bill" Perez). These two men — uncle and



Part of Death Valley's mule team for Death Valley's celebrations of the past. Standing by team is Harold Gill. Collection of Elizabeth Carrasco.

nephew — are good with a rope and work well together in team-roping around rodeos or in jackpot roping. "Bill" Perez is the son of Relles Amick. I wish that I could have known Dee Gill, and had the opportunity to work with him as I have with other old-timers of the Owens Valley.



Dee Gill at Templeton Meadow Log Cabin in the High Sierras. Collection of Relles Amick.

